

Guinness hold crisis meeting over Saunders

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Ernest Saunders was last night locked in a meeting with Guinness directors at a secret location in London amid speculation that he would relinquish his position as chairman of the brewing and leisure group.

The meeting was believed to be considering a plan for Mr Saunders to step down as chairman — at least for the duration of the Government's investigation into Guinness.

He would remain as chief executive of the group effectively running the company under a new chairman chosen from the five independent, part-time, Guinness directors.

Mr Saunders is understood to be opposed to the idea of a new chairman coming in over his head. However, major shareholders in Guinness have become increasingly concerned in the past few weeks that the investigation is deflating Mr Saunders from his primary task of running the company.

These concerns increased following Monday's announcement that there would be no interim report on the investigation.

The shareholders have been pressing the independent directors to formulate a contingency plan should Mr



Mr Saunders yesterday opposed to stepping down

vised board structure which involved dropping proposals made during the takeover bid for Distillers, for Sir Thomas Risk, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, to become chairman of the company.

Meanwhile Sir David Napley, the lawyer called in to advise Guinness on the investigation, yesterday wrote to Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank, demanding the return of £7.6 million at the centre of a dispute between the two parties.

Guinness claims that the money was meant to be held by Ansbacher on interest-free deposit and that the money has been rolled over in a monthly account.

Ansbacher says that it was to be used to purchase 2.15 million Guinness shares, and that it has never received notices of monthly renewals of

the account, allegedly sent to it by Guinness.

A spokesman for Ansbacher said yesterday that the bank was taking further legal advice on the matter and would reply to Sir David in due course.

Department of Trade inspectors have widened their investigations into Guinness to cover a series of "comfort" deals offered by Mr Roger Seelig, the former Morgan Grenfell director to purchasers of Guinness shares during Guinness' bid for Distillers.

The inspectors are looking to see whether the deals have breached Companies Act provisions prohibiting a company from providing financial assistance to a third party to purchase its own shares.

They are also considering whether Guinness could be held responsible for the breaches on the grounds that Morgan Grenfell was acting on its behalf.

It is these deals which led to the resignation of Mr Seelig last week.

During the course of the Guinness bid for Distillers, Mr Seelig approached a number of institutions offering reciprocal favours, if they purchased Guinness shares.

Mr Seelig is understood to have stopped short of offering formal indemnities to the purchasers of the shares.

Nevertheless, it was these deals which precipitated Mr Seelig's resignation last week. Morgan Grenfell is understood to be maintaining that it neither knew or authorised them — a fact which Mr Seelig hotly disputes.

Neither Morgan Grenfell or Guinness would comment on these suggestions yesterday, whilst Mr Seelig was not available for comment.



Police Inspector Douglas Lovelock leaves court yesterday with his wife Julie and daughter (Photograph: Stuart Nicol)

Lambeth distrusted by police

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Staff in the London Borough of Lambeth's housing department were accused yesterday by a senior police officer of leaking information about police operations when asked for help.

The accusation came at the Central Criminal Court on the second day of the trial of Insp Douglas Lovelock, the Metropolitan Police officer whose shooting of an innocent woman in a raid on her house led to the Brixton riots in September 1985.

Supt Ian Beckett, who commanded the raid on the home of Mrs Dorothy "Cherry" Groce, told the court that a decision was taken not to ask Lambeth council, the owners of the house, for details of its layout, as such an approach might endanger the whole operation.

Previous similar requests had been refused, he said, and in some cases details of police operations had been leaked.

Last night a council spokesman said that co-operation had been given to the police in the past for surveillance operations and he had no knowledge of "leaking".

We have allowed police to take over houses, but we are not in favour of this kind of raid because it does frighten people," he said.

Further substantiation of Mr Beckett's allegations would be needed before the matter was taken any further by the council, he said.

Mrs Groce, aged 39, gave evidence yesterday from her wheelchair. She spent more than an hour telling of her encounter with Mr Lovelock, which left her paralysed from the waist down because of the gunshot wound she received.

Trial report, page 3

Thatcher 'hates' hung parliaments

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher yesterday spoke of her hatred for hung parliaments or coalition government and dampened down speculation about calling a spring general election.

However, she was careful to leave open the possibility of being involved in a coalition pact should the Conservatives fail to get an overall majority after the next election.

"What I hate about a hung parliament or these coalitions is that the first thing you have to do is to start from everything on which you have got, perhaps, the biggest number of seats in an election, and compromise it."

"There is something that is not quite as honest as I would like it to be. It may be it has to be done; sometimes it has been done in the past. But in this country coalitions break up pretty quickly. One of the reasons is they frequently tend to duck the difficult decisions."

The last opinion poll showed the Conservative lead over Labour had been reduced to just 1 per cent, and the Prime Minister followed the example set at the weekend by Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman, by publicly expressing doubts over the advantages of a quick "dash" to the country — while still leaving all her options open.

Mrs Thatcher, who has always maintained a preference not to go to the country before the fourth anniversary of her June 1983 election triumph, said: "You play your trump card at the right time, but you don't know when you are going to play it until the opportunity comes. So all I can say is that there will be one by June 1988."

"I have a great belief that people in this country don't expect us to dash into elections at the first opportunity."

The Prime Minister's caution came only days after a MORI survey disclosed that 78 per cent of people want an election this year, with more in favour of it being held before June rather than after.

But while Mrs Thatcher was trying to cool the election fever, she took full advantage of an hour long radio phone-in programme to launch a hustings style attack on Labour.

The thought of a government led by Mr Kinnock made her feel "awful".

"I don't believe in the things he believes in. I believe in a very different kind of society and I really would feel awful, because I would think they were taking us closer and closer to a kind of east European system, which I don't believe is in the character of Britain."

US control alleged by Meacher

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's Health and Social Security spokesman, today makes astonishing allegations in support of a claim that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government has deliberately conspired in making Britain a humiliated subordinate of the United States.

The claims come on the day that the Shadow Cabinet meets at Bishop's Cleeve, seeking to switch attention from defence issues to the Government's record on unemployment and the economy.

Mr Meacher says in a letter to his constituents that what he calls a massive encroachment by America in the right of British people to run their own affairs is a more important election issue than unemployment or the health service or defence.

In support of his claims that the British Government has willingly reduced Britain to an American dependency, Mr Meacher claims:

● That the CIA places agents in the Ministry of Defence ostensibly to prevent our supplying arms to Eastern Block countries but in reality to spy on British companies.

● That the Government has secretly laid the foundations for handing over, in the face of possible nuclear attack, large areas of Britain to control by US forces.

● That three Emergency Powers Bills have been drawn up whereby the Government will take complete power to itself, divest MPs of their powers, rule the country directly

Continued on page 18, col 6

Officers held in riot at prison

Three prison officers were being held hostage at Barlinnie jail, Glasgow, last night after rioting prisoners threatened to stab one in the neck if water hoses were trained on them. In a day of rising tension at the jail, where inmates rioted on Monday evening, prisoners on the roof shouted that they had held five officers but had released two.

One officer was paraded on the roof of the jail. Several more remained trapped in B hall, one of five blocks in the prison which houses up to 1,300 inmates.

The prisoners claimed that they had broken into a cell where the five officers were sheltering, and threw down what they claimed was an officer's warrant card.

Moments earlier, water hoses were seen being directed onto the roof from inside the prison. The Scottish Office said that it was negotiating for the release of the rest of the officers.

Thirty four prison officers were injured in sustained assaults by prisoners armed with roof slates during the day. Three officers were taken to hospital, one with a broken ankle and the others with cuts.

The ferocity of the initial fighting on Monday, which marked the start of Scotland's third prison disturbance in as

Officers warning and photograph

many months, was evident from the trophies that rioters displayed on the jail's rooftop. Among them were riot shields, one splattered with blood, as well as truncheons and officers' caps and coats.

The disturbance began at about 8pm on Monday. Many injuries were sustained in a hail of missiles hurled by the prisoners when an attempt was made to rescue 14 warders who had sheltered in cells.

Wearing masks and balaclavas, 24 prisoners climbed onto the roof and displayed banners protesting against alleged brutality. Their demonstration centred on allegations of brutality by a specific prison officer, and appeared to have been prompted by an alleged assault on a convicted robber.

Samuel Ralston, aged 23, who was jailed last month for six years, is thought to have been at the centre of a disturbance at the prison on New Year's Day. He staged a solo protest on the roof of D Hall at Barlinnie while he was awaiting trial last November.

Mr Ian Lang MP, Under-Secretary of State for Scottish Affairs at the Scottish Office, said: "I'm very concerned at what is happening at Barlinnie but I'm sure that the staff have the situation well under control."

INSIDE Spending power up by 5%

The average Briton's spending power rose by 5% in the 12 months to the end of last year, the biggest annual rise under the present Government.

The increase was fuelled by big wage increases, low inflation and a small cut in income tax, according to official figures released yesterday.

But the trend is not expected to continue unless there are big tax cuts in the next budget.

Gadaffi may attack Chad

Colonel Gadaffi may be planning a counter offensive against Chadian troops by sending a relief column through Sudan to retake Fada in northern Chad, a diplomatic source in Paris said.

IT progress

The new IT Institute at Milton Keynes will help put Britain in the lead in computerized communications. A Special Report looks at its progress.

IN PART ② £8m Halpern

The Burton high street group is planning an executive share option scheme, which could be worth £8 million to Sir Ralph Halpern, the chairman.

Buyout record

Buyouts of companies by their managements reached a record last year with 243 deals worth £1.4 billion — equal in value to the total for the two previous years.

Robson goes

Stewart Robson, the Arsenal and England under-21 footballer, was bought by West Ham United for a fee believed to be about £700,000.

New faces

England have named two new players in their much-changed side to play Scotland in the Five Nations rugby union championship at Twickenham on January 17.

Portfolio

● There was no winner yesterday in The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition, so today's prize is doubled to £8,000.
● Portfolio list, page 23; how to play, information service, page 18.

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Anderton crusade criticized

Two committed Christians

clashed over Aids yesterday when an outspoken Archbishop accused a controversial chief constable of driving

The Archbishop of York, the Right Rev Dr Habgood dismissed a recent speech in which Greater Manchester's Chief Constable James Anderson suggested that Aids stemmed "from a cesspit of immorality infested by homosexuals, prostitutes and unfaithful husbands."

The result of Mr Anderson's message had been to spread fear and guilt among Aids victims who now hide as hapless victims in a model ghetto instead of seeking medical help, Dr Habgood said.

Addressing community physicians at a seminar in York organized by the Faculty of Community Medicine and Society of Health Education Officers Dr Habgood said there now exists a general fear throughout the church that hardening anti-Aids attitudes are worsening an already sensitive situation.

"If one goes too far in stressing fear and guilt one is simply adding to the burden which sufferers already have."

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Contras' US office burgled

From Christopher Thomas

Washington

The main Nicaraguan Contra group says its Washington office has been burgled in the latest of a string of mysterious thefts of documents dealing with private funding of the rebels.

"Our bank records are gone. All the cancelled cheques are gone, all the receipts," Senior Bosco Matamoros, Washington representative of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) said. "There is no sign of anybody breaking in but the locks on our doors were not very good. I think we were overtaken."

Several other mysterious developments suggest that efforts may be underway by unknown people to steal documents from the Contras and from groups opposing them.

Last month an attorney in Cupertino, California, said burglars had stolen a file on Mr Albert Hakim, a central figure in the Iran arms sale operation. A week later he reported that the file had mysteriously returned.

Before Christmas the Washington office of the Centre for International Development, a liberal group that has carried out its own investigation of

Continued on page 18, col 4

Freeze fear premature

Colder though it certainly

is, the weathermen have changed their mind about yesterday's great freeze alert.

Last night the Meteorological Office said that an anticyclone pushing in from the west means the cold spell will be accompanied by mild and gentle breezes from the north.

Some sleet and light snow showers may get into East Anglia and Kent. Today the west and eastern Scotland can look forward to mostly dry and sunny weather.

Tonight will be cold with lowest temperatures in central England down to -7 deg. Celsius.

A Mars on race day makes trainer pay

By Thomson Prentice

Science Correspondent

A Mars a day may help humans work, rest and play but it disqualifies racehorses with a sweet tooth, the Jockey Club ruled yesterday.

The 20-1 winner of a race at Ascot last September, De Rigueur, emerged the loser after it was found to have munched a Mars bar.

The chocolate bar contains theobromine, a natural substance related to caffeine, and produced in the cocoa bean.

The substance, however, is banned under Jockey Club rules because it is deemed to be a stimulant. De Rigueur, a four-year-old gelding, was

given a Mars by a teenage stable girl, Miss Tanya Mayne, the day before the race.

But after champion jockey Pat Eddery had ridden it to victory, traces of theobromine were found in a routine test on the horse's urine.

The girl's action cost the horse's connections its prize-money of £10,000 because of its automatic disqualification, and meant a £575 fine for the trainer, Mr James Bethell, yesterday.

No action was taken at the 80-minute inquiry against Miss Mayne, who admitted administering the substance.

The fine on Mr Bethell is the minimum which can be imposed under the rule unless

the stewards are satisfied that the substance "was not administered by him or by any other person intentionally and that he had taken all reasonable precautions to avoid a breach of the rule."

After the hearing, Mr Bethell, who was legally represented, said: "I thought Tanya would have known about it. She was with another trainer before me and also with the Apprentice Training School. It's ridiculous they don't teach them that sort of thing."

"It has cost me over £1,000 as a percentage of the prize-money and on top of that I have been fined £575 for something I couldn't prevent. If I had known the night

before I would have withdrawn him. Hopefully, he will go on to win the Lincoln."

It is not the first time a Mars bar has figured in a Jockey Club inquiry. In August 1979, the Yorkshire-trained No Bombs was disqualified from a £4,000 race after it was found to have snatched a Mars from a stable lad on the way to the races.

A spokeswoman for Mars said at the company's Slough headquarters yesterday: "Theobromine is a natural substance found in all chocolate. It is a mild stimulant, but at the levels that exist in a Mars bar it would have absolutely no effect either on a horse or a human being."

Success the company is enjoying.

He pointed out that the proposed strike would come two days before a long arranged meeting between Mr Jimmy Knapp and senior management negotiators.

The decision was taken after members had voted by almost five to one in a ballot to give their executive committee the right to call a strike over pay, jobs and conditions. Mr Knapp, the general secretary, welcomed the vote, 7,426 to 1,341.

He said the major issues were LRT's "stated intention of reducing wages and eroding conditions and subjecting NUR members to the 'iniquities of competitive tendering'."

In recent years, four other ballots conducted by the union for strike action have been turned down by guards, signalmen and members employed in railway workshops.

One-day Tube strike called

By Tim Jones.

More than 12,000 members of the National Union of Railwaymen employed by London Regional Transport on the London underground system are to stage a 24-hour strike next Wednesday.

The union intends to follow up its action, which if adhered to will cause widespread disruption, by beginning a campaign of refusing to work on rest days and banning overtime from January 19.

London Underground described the proposed strike as "a pointless action based on deceit". Staff had been fed a diet of "totally false claims", such as the non-existent threat to cut wages by £50 a week.

A spokesman said that members had been told the ballot was to strengthen the hand of union negotiators, not for taking strike action. "They have been conned and strike action will have no purpose other than to damage the

£925,000 haul in armed raid

Armed raiders ambushed a security van in the centre of Nottingham yesterday and escaped with £925,000.

Five men wearing masks used a railway sleeper attached to a lorry to smash their way into a Group 4 security van.

They forced a security guard to hand the money over.

The daylight robbery took place at Robin Hood Chase, in the St Ann's area of the city, outside a branch of the National Westminster Bank.

The raiders, believed to have been armed with shotguns, had been lying in wait nearby in a stolen lorry and drove it to the rear of the security van.

Det Supt Bob Davy, of Nottingham Police said the robbery was a professional operation.

He warned members of the public not to approach the men, who escaped in an orange Ford Transit van, registration SKY 225Y, which had been stolen.

Police said the van had been collecting money from a number of banks in Nottingham before arriving at the National Westminster Bank, in St Ann's, yesterday afternoon.

Two of the three security guards on board had gone into the bank leaving the third inside the van guarding the money.

Mr Charles Rice, a director of Group 4, last night confirmed that the robbers had escaped with £925,000 in cash.

He said: "Fortunately no one was seriously injured although one guard was slightly hurt. Our vans are specially constructed and it would have required considerable force to open it."

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NEWS SUMMARY

Backlog in bomb injury claims

Soldiers and civilians injured in Britain's worst incidents of terrorist bombings and rioting are still awaiting payment of claims, with some dating back to 1981.

More than 100 claims lodged with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board are outstanding, it was revealed yesterday.

About 149 victims, including 55 who had been partially compensated, were still waiting for settlements. And the total backlog of unresolved applications is 51,496 compared with 41,758 the previous year.

The board admits the backlog is "appalling". In its recent annual report, it said the backlog resulted in "unacceptable delays in dealing with cases and is due to a severe shortage of staff".

However, the board yesterday promised that "anything outstanding will be resolved as soon as possible."

The board had paid a total of £41,559,996 in compensation in the past financial year, representing an increase of 17.8 per cent over the previous year.

Stress of £5m find

The owner of Irish bogland where £5 million of treasure was found is receiving psychiatric hospital treatment for stress caused by the discovery, Clonmel Circuit Court was told yesterday.

Mr Dennis O'Brien, of Clonmel, Co Tipperary, began court action last month to prevent trespass by Mr Jack O'Leary, a former part-owner of the land.

But an application for an extension of an injunction against Mr O'Leary was adjourned.

Feud sparks kidnap

A woman was recovering yesterday after a drugs feud spilled over into a "terrifying" kidnap ordeal lasting 46 hours.

The woman, aged 26, was grabbed at her flat in Torquay, Devon, late Sunday night and bundled away.

A ransom demand of about £2,000 - thought by detectives to be a debt from a drugs deal - was later made to the woman's father-in-law in Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Police said a house at Henyock, East Devon, near the Somerset border, was raided by armed police last night.

The victim, who has not been named, was unharmed and a man and a woman were arrested. Later, two more men were detained by police.

Lawyers warned

Barristers who fail to attend a court hearing after obtaining an adjournment may be reported to the trial judge under recommendations from the Lord Chancellor's Department.

The recommendations come after proposals from a scrutiny team on ways to cut down crown court backlogs.

Barristers could be reported where they have asked for a case to be delayed but then not attended the trial.

Other proposals are for more continuous sittings by recorders and for a more even balance in the sittings of circuit court judges.

Blaze pit to reopen

Seaford Colliery in Fife, where an underground fire destroyed a £3.5 million coalface and £4 million of equipment last weekend, was declared safe for normal working by British Coal yesterday.

The fire destroyed one of the two faces and an announcement on the future of the £20 million working there will be made at the end of the week. Production from the remaining face will begin tomorrow, the Scottish area director, Mr George McAlpine, said yesterday.

Efficiency attack on NHS

Urgent action is needed to increase manpower efficiency in the National Health Service (NHS), said yesterday.

A report on NHS professional and technical (P&T) manpower, conducted by Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, identifies big variations in staffing levels and manpower projections throughout Britain.

P&T staff include more than 50 disciplines, such as laboratory staff, radiographers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, representing 8.8 per cent of health service staff. While NHS staff groups increased by 10 per cent between 1976 and 1984, P&T staff rose by 37 per cent to more than 86,800.

The report also shows that the number of occupational therapists per 100,000 of the population ranged from 4.8 to 64.4 in different authorities.

Sir Gordon reported that many health authorities were uncertain whether present staffing levels were appropriate and recognized that manpower forecasts, based on local professional opinion, were unreliable.

Only three of the 14 regional health authorities had attempted to quantify future supply and demand and assess projected shortages or excesses.

Sir Gordon said that while there had been significant progress, authorities could gain better value for money by establishing a balance between supply and demand, by critical examination of staffing levels and by closer matching of these with workloads.

NHS: Control over Professional and Technical Manpower (HMSO, £8.10).

Cab driver denies bomb hoax

A taxi driver carried out a "dangerous and unpleasant" errand when he planted two hoax bombs during the Conservative Party conference last year. Bournemouth Crown Court was told yesterday.

"The consequence of his actions were very unpleasant for many people, because they were frightened stiff," Mr Stuart Jones said for the prosecution.

Macdonald Liddall, aged 27, of Salters Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, denies two bomb hoax charges and one of reckless driving.

It is claimed that on October 10 last year he placed a plastic bag containing telephone directories and a clock outside the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth.

It is also claimed that on the same day he placed a canvas holdall containing newspapers and a clock outside the Bournemouth International Centre.

The case continues today.

Buoyant boat show steers for tranquil waters

The French have been flooding the British market with small, cheap vessels, with total imports recently accounting for almost one-third of the British small boat market.

However, the British Marine Industries Federation claims there has been a 20 per cent improvement in home sales of British powerboats, while EEC exports have risen by two-thirds in the past year.

New British designs have also hauled back some of the sailboat market, with home sales up by 16 per cent and exports to France also on the increase.

Electronics firms show the biggest growth in the equip-

Tankies set for a Communist backlash

By Tim Jones
The pro-Soviet editor of the *Morning Star*, Mr Tony Chater, yesterday accused the leadership of the British Communist Party of setting out to destroy the newspaper and the party by abandoning Marxism and the class struggle.

Since its heyday, immediately after the last war, when it boasted a membership of 50,000 and returned 20 MPs to Parliament, party membership has slumped to below 7,000. In November 1985, it claimed 12,700.

The deep split is the result of an ideological battle between the hard-line Stalinists, known as "tankies", who are subservient to the Moscow line, and the Eurocommunists, who have abandoned the classic class struggle in favour of "socialism".

At the party's biennial conference in November, the tankies hope to launch a counterattack to reverse their many and spectacular defeats.

One of the most prominent men to be expelled from the Party is Mr Ken Gill, the affable general secretary of TASS, the white-collar section of the Amalgamated Engineering Union. Mr Gill, who chaired the TUC congress last September, was found guilty,

along with 11 other party members, of "opposing congress decisions, destroying the links between the party and the *Morning Star* newspaper, and setting the comrades an example of arrogant disregard for party democracy".

Since then, about 40 former hard-line members have rallied around the Communist Campaign Group, whose spokesman, Mr Ivan Beavis, said: "Our main purpose is to win the Communist Party back so that it fulfils its traditional role in society".

That role is defined as supporting any industrial confrontation so that the workers can free themselves of the shackles of capitalist influence. There is no mention of the fact that the *Morning Star*, currently controlled by the tankies, recently dismissed half its printing staff on terms far less attractive than those offered to former employees of News International, which publishes *The Times*.

The News International dispute has become an important symbol for the tankies, for no better reason than it is, to them, an emotive issue within British industrial relations.

Mr John Patten, the Housing Minister, has written to Miss Linda Beller, the leader of Lambeth Council, demanding a report on the London borough's ability to provide the services demanded by law and expected by ratepayers.

Mr Patten's action, which Department of the Environment officials called "unprecedented", comes after disclosure in *The Sunday Times* of a memorandum from Lambeth's chief executive, Mr John George, warning of "a financial crisis" in Lambeth because of excessive interference by Labour councillors and local trades unionists in the work of council officers.

Mr George said that services would have to be severely curtailed because political interference made it almost impossible to recruit or retain senior council officers.

Mr Patten has asked for a report on the council's ability to meet its obligations under the Housing Acts and listed six items which concerned him:

● Lambeth Council's rent arrears appear to be high - £10 million in 1986, or 24 per cent of the annual rent roll

● In April 1986 there were 1,328 council properties standing empty - 2.7 per cent of the stock

● Standards of services are reported to be very low

● Lambeth has closed down the promising priority estate project scheme in Tulse Hill

● Lambeth is one of only two authorities which have refused to have anything to do with the Government's urban housing strategy until despite a specific invitation from the Department of the Environment to discuss this in 1985 and 1986

● The borough has made no response to the DoE's recent offer of additional resources for schemes to help homeless people.

The actions of left-controlled Labour councils are becoming a main focus of attention in the election run-up, with ministers alleging that they form a pattern for the likely conduct of a Labour Government and Mr Kinnock and his colleagues contending that Labour councils show a concern for services in response to a Government which is interested only in cutting expenditure.

Warning of more trouble

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A warning was given yesterday by a prison officers' leader that unless action was taken to deal with trouble-makers, there would be further disruption in Scottish jails.

Mr John Renton, secretary of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association, referring to the small number of disruptive prisoners, said: "We have argued long and strong that something should be done."

One solution was setting up smaller units so that there were more staff for them.

Mr Renton disclosed that it had taken three years for a working party to produce an interim report.

Mr Renton said yesterday: "It's difficult to say that the Government isn't doing enough. What I say is that they are not doing enough, quickly enough."

Trouble at Barlinnie jail, Scotland, yesterday had been fanned by senior prison officers. The annual report last month of Mr Alastair Thompson, Scottish prison service director, spoke of the pressures of overcrowding in jails leading to an increase in

violent attacks by prisoners on fellow inmates.

He said: "The pressures fall mainly on the larger local prisons, such as Edinburgh and Barlinnie. The pressures are not only on accommodation, but also on other facilities, such as recreation areas."

Barlinnie was built for 943 prisoners, but it held 1259 on Monday night, as tension rose. A flash-point, though often ignited by a single incident, is usually the culmination of a series of grievances, some small, which experienced staff know how to spot and defuse.

But sometimes they develop a momentum of their own.

At Peterhead Prison, known as Scotland's toughest jail, where a 92-hour siege ended in arson in November, the visits which give prisoners something to look forward to are saved up by many families because they come from places as far away as Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Prisoners cannot see why a new main security prison is to be built within the existing perimeter of Peterhead to

replace the present jail. They want it nearer their homes in the south.

Another drawback to the Scottish system is that it is too small to disperse trouble-makers, as in the south, though there is a 10-cell unit at Peterhead, built in 1983 to house disruptive prisoners.

Jails are also having to hold some prisoners longer. Mr George Younger, then Secretary of State for Scotland, said on December 18 1984: "I have made clear to the Parole Board for Scotland that I would be reluctant to exercise my discretion so as to authorise early release of a person who is serving a sentence of more than five years for such offences as violent crime or drug trafficking any more than a few months before he would otherwise be released."

Mr Thompson said that a review of prison accommodation and the commissioning of phase two of Shotts Prison, Lanarkshire in the spring, which would add 468 places should mean an end to overcrowding.

Council searches for £45,000 manager

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

Applications for the first managing director to be appointed in local government in Britain are now being studied by Conservative-controlled Westminster City Council.

The Conservatives are keen to inject more efficiency and discipline into the council, which has an annual turnover of £200 million.

A salary of up to £45,000 a year is being offered to attract the right person, either from the "outside world" or from within local government.

The Labour group on the council has denounced the decision as the creation of a "two-headed monster", but the Conservative councillors claim the present chief executive at Westminster, Mr Rodney Brooke, needs a managing director to mastermind the day-to-day running of council business.

They say Mr Brooke will continue with all his current work acting as "the chairman of the board".

Lady Porter, the Conservative leader at Westminster, said yesterday: "It's impossible for one man to be in charge of all the policies we have. If we were a business we would automatically have a managing director."

"Local government is changing. It cannot carry on the way it is."

Lady Porter said that the council had technical officers who were responsible for departments with a turnover of £25 million a year, yet who had no business training.

Mr Brooke said yesterday: "Westminster has introduced a number of innovative policies, which we want to drive forward."

"I need someone on a day-to-day basis to give impetus to these policies."

"I shall remain in charge of overall strategy and the council's programme."



Rioting prisoners on the roof of Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow, yesterday displaying their trophies - warders' hats and riot shields (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

Prison overcrowding

Warning of more trouble

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A warning was given yesterday by a prison officers' leader that unless action was taken to deal with trouble-makers, there would be further disruption in Scottish jails.

Mr John Renton, secretary of the Scottish Prison Officers' Association, referring to the small number of disruptive prisoners, said: "We have argued long and strong that something should be done."

One solution was setting up smaller units so that there were more staff for them.

Mr Renton disclosed that it had taken three years for a working party to produce an interim report.

Mr Renton said yesterday: "It's difficult to say that the Government isn't doing enough. What I say is that they are not doing enough, quickly enough."

Trouble at Barlinnie jail, Scotland, yesterday had been fanned by senior prison officers. The annual report last month of Mr Alastair Thompson, Scottish prison service director, spoke of the pressures of overcrowding in jails leading to an increase in

violent attacks by prisoners on fellow inmates.

He said: "The pressures fall mainly on the larger local prisons, such as Edinburgh and Barlinnie. The pressures are not only on accommodation, but also on other facilities, such as recreation areas."

Barlinnie was built for 943 prisoners, but it held 1259 on Monday night, as tension rose. A flash-point, though often ignited by a single incident, is usually the culmination of a series of grievances, some small, which experienced staff know how to spot and defuse.

But sometimes they develop a momentum of their own.

At Peterhead Prison, known as Scotland's toughest jail, where a 92-hour siege ended in arson in November, the visits which give prisoners something to look forward to are saved up by many families because they come from places as far away as Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Prisoners cannot see why a new main security prison is to be built within the existing perimeter of Peterhead to

replace the present jail. They want it nearer their homes in the south.

Another drawback to the Scottish system is that it is too small to disperse trouble-makers, as in the south, though there is a 10-cell unit at Peterhead, built in 1983 to house disruptive prisoners.

Jails are also having to hold some prisoners longer. Mr George Younger, then Secretary of State for Scotland, said on December 18 1984: "I have made clear to the Parole Board for Scotland that I would be reluctant to exercise my discretion so as to authorise early release of a person who is serving a sentence of more than five years for such offences as violent crime or drug trafficking any more than a few months before he would otherwise be released."

Mr Thompson said that a review of prison accommodation and the commissioning of phase two of Shotts Prison, Lanarkshire in the spring, which would add 468 places should mean an end to overcrowding.

Council searches for £45,000 manager

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

Applications for the first managing director to be appointed in local government in Britain are now being studied by Conservative-controlled Westminster City Council.

The Conservatives are keen to inject more efficiency and discipline into the council, which has an annual turnover of £200 million.

A salary of up to £45,000 a year is being offered to attract the right person, either from the "outside world" or from within local government.

The Labour group on the council has denounced the decision as the creation of a "two-headed monster", but the Conservative councillors claim the present chief executive at Westminster, Mr Rodney Brooke, needs a managing director to mastermind the day-to-day running of council business.

They say Mr Brooke will continue with all his current work acting as "the chairman of the board".

Lady Porter, the Conservative leader at Westminster, said yesterday: "It's impossible for one man to be in charge of all the policies we have. If we were a business we would automatically have a managing director."

"Local government is changing. It cannot carry on the way it is."

Lady Porter said that the council had technical officers who were responsible for departments with a turnover of £25 million a year, yet who had no business training.

Mr Brooke said yesterday: "Westminster has introduced a number of innovative policies, which we want to drive forward."

"I need someone on a day-to-day basis to give impetus to these policies."

"I shall remain in charge of overall strategy and the council's programme."

Lambeth told to report on 'crisis'

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

Mr John Patten, the Housing Minister, has written to Miss Linda Beller, the leader of Lambeth Council, demanding a report on the London borough's ability to provide the services demanded by law and expected by ratepayers.

Mr Patten's action, which Department of the Environment officials called "unprecedented", comes after disclosure in *The Sunday Times* of a memorandum from Lambeth's chief executive, Mr John George, warning of "a financial crisis" in Lambeth because of excessive interference by Labour councillors and local trades unionists in the work of council officers.

Mr George said that services would have to be severely curtailed because political interference made it almost impossible to recruit or retain senior council officers.

Mr Patten has asked for a report on the council's ability to meet its obligations under the Housing Acts and listed six items which concerned him:

● Lambeth Council's rent arrears appear to be high - £10 million in 1986, or 24 per cent of the annual rent roll

● In April 1986 there were 1,328 council properties standing empty - 2.7 per cent of the stock

● Standards of services are reported to be very low

● Lambeth has closed down the promising priority estate project scheme in Tulse Hill

● Lambeth is one of only two authorities which have refused to have anything to do with the Government's urban housing strategy until despite a specific invitation from the Department of the Environment to discuss this in 1985 and 1986

● The borough has made no response to the DoE's recent offer of additional resources for schemes to help homeless people.

The actions of left-controlled Labour councils are becoming a main focus of attention in the election run-up, with ministers alleging that they form a pattern for the likely conduct of a Labour Government and Mr Kinnock and his colleagues contending that Labour councils show a concern for services in response to a Government which is interested only in cutting expenditure.

Advert for black man 'racist'

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Lambeth's left-wing council was accused of racism yesterday over its plans to seek applications for black people only to head its police unit.

The unit's acting head for the past two years, Mr Richard Allen, cannot apply for the post because he is white. He is likely to return to other work within the unit, which is staffed by two white and two black people.

The borough is justifying advertisements for the £16,000-a-year job by saying that nine out of 10 people who visit the unit for advice are black.

But the council's Conservative opposition has labelled the advertisements "outrageous" and is writing to the Commission for Racial Equality calling for the council to be prosecuted.

But a council spokeswoman stressed that it was entirely legal under the Race Relations Act 1976 to specify that the council wished to appoint a black head of the police unit.

Under the Act an employer was allowed to discriminate at the point of selection if it was a genuine occupational qualification to appoint from a particular ethnic group, she said.

The council justifies advertising for the head of the unit under the appropriate section of the Act because the improvement of relations between the black community and the police was a priority for the police unit and for the council.

But a Tory spokesman said: "This action is racist itself. It flies in the face of race relations legislation."

The issue raises once more the position of police committee support units, which deny criticisms that there is any bias against police. Officially, they provide support for councillors on the police committee and information and assistance to local residents on policing, community safety and crime prevention.

Mr Tony Judge, spokesman for the Police Federation, said yesterday: "These units could be described as the overpaid in pursuit of the unaccountable."

Writing *The Times* yesterday, Mr Judge said: "The units are a waste of money. They are a relic of the past. They should be abolished."

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Officer pointed gun at woman's heart and fired, court told

By Michael McCarthy

Mrs Dorothy Groce yesterday told the Central Criminal Court that a police officer burst into her home "aimed a gun at her heart" and then shot her as she tried to run away.

The courtroom was hushed as Mrs Groce, paralysed from the waist down because of the shooting, raised her joined hands in front of her as if in prayer to demonstrate the Metropolitan Police "firing stance" adopted by Insp Douglas Lovelock when she came face-to-face with him in the instant before she was shot.

She said that the first she knew of the police in her house was hearing footsteps in the hall, which she took for her daughter Juliette, asleep in another room who suffered from epileptic fits.

"When I reached the door I was rushed back by some people," she said. "I didn't know where they came from. The first was a man in front of me with a gun. He had it in both hands and he was crouching. It was pointed at me." (Here she demonstrated.)

She went on: "So I was trying to get away. I just stood there, then I tried to run out the door, then it went off. The gun fired while I was trying to run."

Questioned by Mr Richard du Cann, for the prosecution, about why she moved, she said: "He was aiming at my heart. If someone is pointing a gun at your heart you try to dodge it."

She said she heard a bang and ran across to another daughter's bed, when her legs gave way and she fell to the ground. As police tended her and covered her with a blan-

ket, she had difficulty breathing and could feel nothing in the lower part of her body. Mrs Groce, known as Cherry, who is 39 and the mother of seven children, gave her own account from the judge's bench, having been brought into court through one of the judge's entrances by her solicitor and her daughter Rosemary.

She appeared to suffer some discomfort but betrayed little emotion during her 63 minutes of evidence.

Mr Lovelock, aged 42, a policeman for 22 years, pleads not guilty to unlawfully and maliciously wounding Mrs Groce at her home in Normandy Road, Brixton, south London on September 28, 1985.

The incident later led to rioting in the Brixton area. The court has heard that armed officers had gone to the house seeking Mrs Groce's son Michael on firearms charges and that Mr Lovelock later described the shooting as "a terrible, terrible accident" caused by him "tensing" with his finger on the trigger when he came face-to-face with Mrs Groce in her bedroom.

Later the officer in charge of the police operation that led to the shooting, Supt (then Chief Insp) Ian Beckett, alleged that details of other Metropolitan Police operations had been leaked by local authority housing departments when police had asked them for help.

Mr Beckett was explaining why police decided not to seek details of the interior of the house in Normandy Road from Lambeth council, the owners.

In theory it was possible to approach the council, he said,

but he added: "In practice it is dangerous to a police operation to do that sort of thing."

Mr Beckett explained: "We have to apply in writing to the housing department to get the plans we require, which was obviously not appropriate in the circumstances. A personal approach would be very difficult and possibly refused. We have had occasions when they have not been able to work with us on previous operations."

The most difficult part of all is that we have had operations leaked by various housing departments. In this type of situation, that would be extremely dangerous, and the decision was taken not to approach Lambeth council."

Mr Beckett said that the officers involved in the raid on the house had "no information about who was on the premises."

To repeated questioning from the judge, Mr Justice Leonard, he said it was impossible to mount a surveillance operation of Normandy Road because even plain clothed police officers, either on foot or in vehicles, would have been attacked and could have been attacked and could have been attacked and could have been attacked.

The address was not known to local police, he said. The home beat officer suggested it might have been taken over by squatters.

Asked if he had consulted the electoral roll, Mr Beckett said he had not, but he believed that the home beat officer and another inspector had done so.

Mrs Groce had earlier told the court that she had lived in the house for nearly four years and was on the electoral roll. The case continues today.



Mrs Sue Brown with letters addressed to Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street on the fictional detective's birthday yesterday. Mrs Brown, editor of magazines for young investors at the Abbey National Building Society, which occupies the site, spends one day a week answering mail from followers throughout the world. Holmes' first case, *A Study in Scarlet*, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was published in Mrs Brown's Christmas Annual of 1987 (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

RSPCA attempt to save birds

An RSPCA official was yesterday refusing to carry out the last wishes of a widow, who wanted her pets to die with her.

Mrs Doreen Sinnott, aged 59, whose body was found on Monday when police broke into her home in Morton, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, stated in her will that her animals should be put down on her death as she feared what might happen to them.

She left her estate, estimated at £40,000, to the Anti-Vivisection League.

Her two dogs, three cats, two geese, two canaries, a duck, a parakeet, a cockatiel, a parrot and a budgerigar have been rounded up and are in the hands of the local RSPCA.

Mr Dennis Jones, an RSPCA chief inspector, hopes to save the nine birds by arguing they cannot be classified as animals.

But the dogs and cats will not escape the death sentence. He said: "It is a very sad situation. I am not prepared to put animals to sleep when they are healthy, but I have no choice but to make the arrangements, because we are legally obliged to comply with the terms of a will."

Solicitors oppose fixed fees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society is opposing plans by the Lord Chancellor to bring in a system of fixed fees for criminal legal aid work.

The plans mean a shift from the present way of paying lawyers, which is usually based on how long they take on a case, to a set rate for a specific kind of job.

The Lord Chancellor has successfully negotiated a system of fixed, or standard, fees for barristers doing criminal legal aid work in crown courts.

Now his officials want to agree a similar scheme with solicitors, whereby a particular kind of work - such as a guilty plea - would qualify for a set rate of pay.

Mr Eric Hilkey, remuneration secretary at the society, said that the crucial question was to what extent such a scheme would be compulsory. "We are not against standard fees in principle, and it is possible that kinds of work could be identified - such as simple crown court work like appeals against sentence - where they might be acceptable."

But he added that it was crucial that the profession retained the right to have a bill determined under the old method of taxation by a court.

The Lord Chancellor must have regard to what is fair and the profession is not likely to take kindly to standard fees by compulsion," Mr Hilkey said.

The proposals have been put forward in talks taking place alongside the current negotiations for pay rises from April 1.

The profession is unlikely to submit, nor the Lord Chancellor to meet, a claim of much more than 5 to 7 per cent in the wake of the last pay round. The new data collecting machinery - to be set up to determine what the profession earns - will not be in action in time to support or counteract any claim that lawyers are grossly underpaid.

A system of fixed fees has the backing of the recent legal aid report by a Treasury-led scrutiny team who wanted such a scheme not only for criminal legal aid work but across the whole spectrum of civil work as well.

The present system provided "little incentive to those who carry out work more quickly than the average", was costly and time-consuming to operate, the team said.

It recommended that "all rates of remuneration should be set on a national basis by the Lord Chancellor's Department" and that where possible the basis of payment should be a standard fee.

There is also strong opposition from solicitors specializing in criminal legal aid.

The London Criminal Courts' Solicitors' Association is "extremely concerned" about the proposal and Mr Anthony Edwards, its secretary, says in a letter to the Law Society that his committee has "grave fears" about the effect that fixed fees would have on the "quality of work".

Such fee scales are "inappropriate" to any jury trial of any complexity, and if brought in for other work, it is essential that solicitors retain the option of having a bill determined by the court.

He also recommends that any appeal about the assessment of a solicitor's bill should be to a judicial authority. "This is of the essence of solicitors' costs and it is wrong that those of us who work in the legal aid field should be disadvantaged."

The current proposals would mean vast administrative savings in the elimination of assessment.

Wages fuel leap in spending power

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The average Briton enjoyed a 5 per cent boost to real income in the 12 months to the end of last year, according to official figures released yesterday.

The figures show that a combination of strong growth in wages and salaries, low inflation and a small income tax cut produced a 5 per cent increase in personal disposable income between the third quarters of 1985 and 1986.

This was the largest increase since 1979, when the present Government took office. It also provided the basis for the consumer spending boom that has been pulling the economy along.

The 5 per cent real income rise was matched by a 5 per cent increase in High Street spending. The proportion of

income that people save was steady at 10.6 per cent in the third quarter. A year earlier the figure was 10.5 per cent.

The figures are highly significant for the Government. Real personal disposable income is the best measure of how affluent the electorate is.

But the big increase achieved last year may not be sustainable. There is evidence from the Confederation of British Industry of a slow-down in wage increases and the majority of forecasters, including the Treasury, expect a rise in the inflation rate this year.

As a result, a slowing down of real income growth appears inevitable this year, unless the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivers significant reductions in income tax in his March Budget.

The opposition benches, with the support of the Conservative and Independent peers, have tabled amendments this week to strike out this defence.

They argue that companies will use it as a loophole to get out of paying damages for products, such as Thalidomide, when there was a gap between the time the drug came on the market and the time its effects were discovered.

One of the Government's arguments for the "development risks" defence is that without it firms will not be able to get insurance cover for new products. But an all-party group of peers has now attempted to get round this by putting down an amendment, to be debated this month, requiring the Government to guarantee such insurance.

The fate of the amendments may depend on the Government's eagerness not to antagonize the Lords while it is handling the teachers' pay Bill.

Mr David Trench, legal adviser to the Consumers' Association, said that France and the United States did not fall back on the "development risks" defence, nor did the German pharmaceutical industry.

Protection for firms attacked

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Consumer activists are trying to prevent the Government giving too much protection to firms which could otherwise be sued for damages caused by dangerous or defective products.

Ministers, strongly backed by the Confederation of British Industry, are intent on giving firms some defence from unrestricted prosecution under the Consumer Protection Bill.

To do this they have included a "development risks" clause, which absolves a company from liability if it can prove the state of knowledge at the time of manufacture did not enable it to know that the product might be defective.

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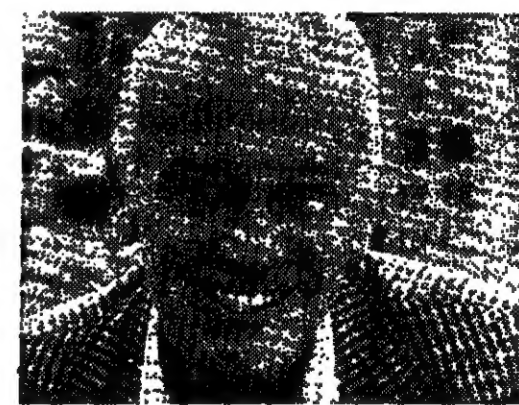
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Worst driver wins award

By Ian Smith

When Mrs Karen Cullen sat behind the wheel for her first driving lesson, engaged reverse gear and ploughed into a clump of rose bushes, she was showing the first exciting signs of a great title contender.

Ten years later, after five failed driving tests and £1,000 spent on lessons Mrs Cullen, a secretary aged 33, has snatched the title of Worst Driver in Britain by displaying an unmatched flair for erratic driving, non-existent clutch control and haphazard manoeuvring.

It was the title no one wanted to win. As she posed on a newly-decorated car bonnet in Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday with the winner's shield, a bright red L-plate mounted on a pinth, Mrs Cullen, of Buti Lane, Milton,

Cambridgeshire, looked as apprehensive as her driving instructors undoubtedly feel whenever they lose the office draw and have to take her out for a lesson.

Looking equally nervous was Mr Ray Bettson, the contest organizer, who runs AREL at Llanfairrhym in North Wales, the country's first residential school offering driving test "no boppers" an intensive tuition course.

After 30 traumatic minutes gripping the passenger seat as Mrs Cullen took to the roads, one could not help concluding that Mr Bettson knew in his quaking heart that Mrs Cullen would become one of the few even he could not help.

Mrs Cullen was one of three finalists selected from more than 200 learner-drivers who entered the competition to be

recognized as the country's worst car insurance risk.

All had to have failed their driving test at least five times. There should have been a fourth contender, a man who shed off at the last minute.

So it was left to females to uphold the myth about women drivers. Besides Mrs Cullen there were Mrs Ann-Marie Johnson, aged 30, from Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Mrs Hilda Andrews, aged 56, from Little Setton, South Wirral on Merseyside, who has been a learner for 25 years.

Mrs Johnson distinguished herself by demolishing a wall, garden and garage after travelling just 15 yards on her first lesson, while Mrs Andrews refused to contribute to the now wisely retired instructor's heart attack.

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21-23	33-40	2,128	1,130	383	3,631	1,128
24-26	41-48	2,136	1,127	382	3,632	1,123
27-29	49-56	2,141	1,121	380	3,612	1,111
30-32	57-64	2,089	1,109	376	3,574	1,089
33-35	65-72	2,061	1,094	371	3,536	1,061
36-38	73-80	2,034	1,080	366	3,500	1,034
39-41	81-88	2,012	1,068	362	3,442	1,012
42-44	89-96	1,975	1,049	356	3,380	1,016
45-47	97-104	1,975	1,049	356	3,380	1,016

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45	49	5,368	2,861	970	9,219	2,861
50	54	5,319	2,824	967	9,100	2,824
55	59	5,250	2,786	945	8,983	2,786
60	64	5,198	2,760	936	8,894	2,760
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 (c) Have you ever had, or are you now having, or intend to have, any medical treatment or surgery (including blood tests) at any hospital, clinic or surgery within the last twelve months? YES NO
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High wages push London house prices up by 23%

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices in London went up by 23 per cent during 1986, more than 10 times the increase in Northern Ireland and nearly eight times the increase in Scotland and the north of England, according to the Nationwide Building Society.

In two surveys, covering British house price movements and housing trends in London, the society says that the average price of a home in London has risen to £53,350, more than 35 per cent higher than in the United Kingdom overall.

The average price paid by Nationwide borrowers nationally was £41,150, while for first-time buyers the average was £33,380 and for previous owners £53,250.

Prices in the UK went up by 14 per cent during the year, compared with 10 per cent in 1985, and well ahead of earnings (8 per cent) and inflation (estimated at 3.5 per cent).

More than half of the first-time buyers in London had previously been living at home, a higher proportion than for the UK as a whole, and they also included an above average proportion of borrowers who had previously been living in privately rented accommodation.

Nationwide borrowers in London were younger than their UK counterparts, reflecting the high proportion of first-time buyers, and female main borrowers accounted for

Property Correspondent

nearly one quarter of the borrowers in London (24 per cent), a much higher proportion than nationally.

The society explains that borrowers in London were able to pay the higher prices because average incomes at £17,180 were well above the UK average, and because borrowers were prepared to commit a higher proportion of income to mortgage repayments.

Examining the prices, the society says that London buyers are not getting the value for money that can be obtained elsewhere. For £70,000 a buyer in the North or South-west can choose a comfortable four-bedroom detached house with a garden and garage. In the more up-market areas of London, however, the same money would buy only a relatively small town flat.

Mr Bernard Rozier, the society's general manager, said: "You might think that the exceptionally high price of property in London would deter people from entering the market, but that is clearly not the case. This is partly the result of above average incomes generally in London and partly because the continuing sales of council properties at discount are pushing up the number of first-time buyers."

He said that first-time buyers in London were increasingly having to purchase older and smaller properties.

Council house owners can sell in three years

Owners of former council houses or flats which were bought at a discount under the Government's right-to-buy scheme will be free to sell them after three years, instead of five years, without paying back the discount.

The new move is part of the Housing and Planning Act 1986 which came into force today and was announced by

Mr John Patten, the Minister for Housing.

There will be a new discount scale for tenants buying their flats. The minimum discount will be 44 per cent of the market value for a tenant of two years standing. For every extra year there will be another 2 per cent, up to a maximum of 70 per cent.

Leading article, page 11

Call for action on young homeless

By Jill Sherman

The Government and local authorities have been urged to help stem the growing number of young homeless people.

The National Council of Voluntary Organizations, which represents more than 500 bodies, says that both statutory and voluntary agencies should provide a range of services that include emergency accommodation in hostels, bed-sits and flats; medical facilities taking account of the particular needs of the homeless; and advice, information and counselling services.

The report, which has been commissioned by the European Research into Consumer Affairs and the Disabilities Study Unit, also says that the Department of Education and Science should include lessons on "leaving home" in its curriculum.

The Government should strengthen the Housing Act 1985, it says, so that local authorities are given a mandatory responsibility to secure accommodation for all homeless people.

The Act, which gives local authorities responsibility for advising and assisting the homeless, does not refer specifically to the young. Housing organizations claim that most councils are reluctant to house people under 18.

The council says that existing data on the number of homeless, although scarce, suggests that the numbers, particularly in London, are rising significantly. Between July and September 1985 the Piccadilly Advice Centre in London, which gives housing and benefits advice specifically for the young homeless, reported a 52 per cent increase in the number of inquiries about temporary accommodation, reaching 1,283 that quarter.

"The life-style of far too many youngsters when they leave home is characterized by ugly and undesired periods in short-stay, temporary accommodation, in hostels, low-quality bed and breakfast establishments, bedding down on the floor of a friend or just sleeping rough," the report says.

Homeless Young People in Britain: The contribution of the voluntary sector (NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London, WC1E 6EJ).



Dr David Bellamy, the conservationist, at the launch of a drive to improve beaches (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Campaign to clean up filthy beaches

Britain's beaches are among the worst in Europe, Dr David Bellamy, the conservationist, said yesterday when he launched a clean-up campaign.

Bathers often swim in raw sewage and children have to build sandcastles among used condoms because of inadequate sewage treatment, he said at a London press conference.

Dr Bellamy is vice-president of the Marine Conservation Society, which has

launched the campaign with the Coastal Anti-Pollution League.

He said few of Britain's 800 bathing beaches conform to EEC standards and it will take about £1 billion to improve the situation.

Blackpool, one of the world's favourite seaside resorts, is among the worst and will cost about £25 million to clean, he said.

Other badly affected beaches include Lytham in Lancashire; New Brighton,

Merseyside; Penzance and St Ives in Cornwall.

Dr Bellamy said changes in contraception, partly due to advice about avoiding Aids, had led to the recurrence of an old problem - used condoms being flushed into the sea with raw sewage.

The campaign organizers say both the Government and the public must pay more to ensure sewage is properly treated in biological plant.

An information letter and request for donations is to be

sent to thousands of homes. It states: "Unless you want to go to the seaside and suffer the massive indignity of walking in your own excrement and bathing amongst solid, offensive waste in waters that make you ill, then join us in the campaign for a cleaner sea."

The South West Water Authority is to consider next month a £30 million scheme to alleviate problems in the Penzance and St Ives area. The project would stop raw sewage being pumped into the sea near beaches.

Hospital social work

Ministry rejects £2m bill

A London borough is taking the Government to arbitration over a £2 million bill for hospital social work.

The social services department at Camden, north London, has been pressing the Department of Health and Social Security to pay for services it provides to inner city hospitals.

However, while local authorities are entitled to present bills for health service work they have until now operated a reciprocal agreement with health authorities, under which there is no cross charging for hospital social work or school health services.

Camden says that it spends much more on hospital social work than any other local authority because of the large number of teaching centres it supplies.

Yet only a small percentage of the patients are residents of the borough.

The DHSS has, however, been resisting payment, anxious to avoid creating a precedent which could initiate cross charging between all health and local authorities.

Talks between the DHSS, the Association of Local Authorities and the London Boroughs Association failed to produce any solution.

A suggestion to pool all money spent by authorities in London on hospital social work, and redistribute it on a population basis also foundered when the London Boroughs Association refused to pool funds.

Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, subsequently offered £200,000 in recognition of its training work at the Tavistock Clinic, but Camden rejected it.

A spokesman for the DHSS said yesterday that although Camden had decided to proceed to arbitration talks were still taking place to find a solution.

Gay pair 'plotted to kill boys'

By a Staff Reporter

Two homosexuals who met in Gloucester prison plotted to kidnap, torture and seductively kill young boys for sexual gratification, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

The plot was discovered when the landlady of one of the men found a love letter from the other in his Exeter flat. Mr Richard Hawkins, counsel for the prosecution, said.

James Holland, aged 57, a writer, of Hanley Road, Finsbury Park, north London, and John Youatt, aged 35, unemployed, of Friars Walk, Exeter, Devon, have pleaded not guilty to conspiring between December 15, 1983, and January 27 last year to murder children.

They also deny conspiring to cause grievous bodily harm to children with intent, conspiring to assault indecently male children aged under 16, and conspiring to assault male children aged under 16 with intent to commit sexual offences.

Mr Hawkins said that the letter, in which Mr Holland described a midweek evening at St Paul's Cathedral where he had attended, showed that the pair had willingly and intentionally formed agreements together. It is alleged that these agreements were to kill, torture and sexually abuse young children.

British Aerospace hopes it can use the success of the A320 to persuade the Government to provide up to £750 million in launch aid for the next Airbus project, the A340 and the long-range A380. So far it has received only lukewarm responses from the Government.

Royal roll out next month for Airbus

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to give the royal seal of approval to Airbus A320, the European medium range jet.

They have agreed to perform the official "roll out" ceremony when the first A320 leaves the production line at Airbus Industrie headquarters in Toulouse, France, on February 14.

The St Valentine's Day launch of the 150-seat jet will, it is believed, give a tremendous fillip to the project, which is already assured of being a big money-spinner for the consortium.

So far 387 A320s have been earmarked for delivery to airlines around the world from the spring of 1988, although the first flight is not scheduled until March.

Airbus, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, neatly fills a hole in the market - it is an ultra modern jet, which will be able to fly 150 passengers about 3,000 miles at a much lower cost than the present generation of aircraft.

Already 13 airlines or leasing companies have placed orders or options for the aircraft.

The launch ceremony will be British Caledonian, which has placed seven firm orders and has options on another three. They will replace its BAC 1-11s.

The attraction of Airbus over its American built rivals - the Boeing 737-300 and the McDonnell Douglas MD 90 - is its highly sophisticated controls and its fuel efficiency.

BCAL reckons that the seat cost per mile of running the A320 on its European routes will be 27 per cent less than with the existing 1-11 fleet. And Air France, another early customer for the aircraft, says it will save 65 per cent in fuel, compared with its present Caravelle jets.

The A320s are being assembled at Toulouse, with parts being flown in from around the world.

British Aerospace, which does 24 per cent of the work, builds the wings at its factory in Chester, then take them down to Filton for finishing. Aerospace builds the front part of the fuselage at Nantes and St Nazaire, the rear fuselage comes from Hamburg and the tail is made in Madrid.

The A320s are manufactured in Belgium and the CFM56 engines from a joint American/French company. The avionics are divided between practically all the European nations and America.

Plans are now well advanced to make the royal roll out ceremony one of the most impressive ever held by an aircraft manufacturer. The first aircraft should then fly in March for a year-long series of trials.

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Cadet corps in Thatcher town

Lincolnshire police hope to start a volunteer cadet corps in Mrs Thatcher's home town of Grantham, to teach good citizenship.

Mr Stanley Crump, the chief constable, said the group of 12 cadets, aged 16 and upwards, would not be a recruiting agency for the police, but would be given training in citizenship at weekly meetings.

There is no suggestion that they carried out these agreements. However, it is a crime to intentionally agree with another to carry out such matters," Mr Hawkins said.

He said that during the early part of 1985 both men were in prison in Gloucester, where they made their agreements. Mr Holland had played the leading role, but Mr Youatt played a full and willing part. The case continues today.

As a final technical challenge, BSB must see to it that the satellite dish equipment is designed and ready to be put into mass production. The aerials are the easy part. They can be stamped out of aluminium or plastic for a few pounds each. Much more difficult will be the design of the black box of electronics necessary to convert the satellite transmissions into signals that can be displayed by an ordinary television set.

If BSB succeeds in putting the financial and technical elements in place, it will then move on to an equally formidable set of marketing and programming tasks.

Mr Robert Dodds, media director of the advertising agency, BBDO, said last week that satellite television must survive in a market where growing supply and increased competition are the dominant characteristics.

Potential advertisers, he said, will require assistance that the medium is being based on the demand of consumers, not the push of technology.

Concluded

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WORLD SUMMARY

Singer rests after throat surgery

Sydney (AP) — Elton John, the 39-year-old pop singer, was resting comfortably yesterday after an hour's throat surgery which appears to have cured a problem that has plagued him for months, the hospital said.

"The operation went very, very well and is successful," St Vincent's Private Hospital said in a statement. "It is hoped that he will not need further surgery. There's every possibility that he will not."

Dr John Tonkin, a throat specialist, said the singer would not be able to perform for months, and must stay in hospital for the rest of the week. He has been told not to speak until then, and is communicating with pen and paper at the moment, said Patti MacKay, his Australian publicist.

The hospital, at John's request, would not reveal his ailment. He has cancelled all performances in 1987, including a tour of the United States, after collapsing on stage during a performance in Sydney near the end of a 27-stop Australian tour.

Maputo Gulf raid expulsion studied

Oslo (Reuters) — Norway's NRK state television reported yesterday that Mozambique has agreed to expel six senior officials of the African National Congress (ANC) from Maputo.

NRK said in a report by its Africa correspondent that a demand by Pretoria was presented to the Mozambique Government in Maputo last week and was accompanied by unspecified threats if Mozambique did not expel the six. The television said the six would be expelled by next Monday.

Washington — Pentagon officials are investigating the firing of a missile at a US Navy helicopter by an unidentified merchant ship in the Gulf on Monday. The missile missed the aircraft, an official said (Mohsin Ali writes).

The helicopter was on a routine surface surveillance from the US destroyer O'Shaun, operating off Dubai. It is the first time that such a missile has been fired at an American helicopter during the current oil tanker war between Iran and Iraq.

Message to Mexico

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday left Mexican leaders with a clear message that Britain hopes for a larger slice of their commercial business (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes). Britain has lent more money to Mexico than to any other developing country except Brazil.

As Sir Geoffrey ended his Central American visit and flew to Bermuda, City sources pointed out that the exposure of British clearing banks in Mexico debts was \$6.3 billion. "Britain wants to shift into much higher gear the contribution it makes to Mexico's economic development," Sir Geoffrey said, calling for more joint UK-Mexican commercial projects.

Anthrax Car of the future claim

British and American scientists built thousands of anthrax bombs for a biological warfare campaign against the Germans in the Second World War, Professor Barton Bernstein of California's Stanford University claimed yesterday (Our Whitehall Correspondent writes).

They were never used because Hitler had not developed a similar bomb.

Sydney (Reuters) — A Chinese company car that will run on fuel ranging from soybean oil to diesel is to be produced in a joint venture with Australia, it was announced here. Protech Capital Investment said it had signed a letter of intent with China's Jiangsu Car Company to build the car, which will have a top speed of 50 mph and cost under \$1,545.

Ryzhkov enterprise

Helinski — Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, arrived yesterday on a four-day visit, and began immediate talks with President Koivisto (Olli Kivinen writes). His first working trip to the West as Prime Minister will focus on trade matters. It is believed that Moscow's first new joint enterprise with the West will be set up in preparation for the Russians agreed to form a joint company with Finnair to restore and run Hotel Berlin in Moscow.

Among other accords to be signed is one on immediate notification in case of a nuclear accident.

Off-duty speeding

Never (AFP) — René Arno, the French Formula 1 driver, right, could lose his driving licence after police said he drove a 552,000 Mercedes 560 at 157.25 mph near this central French town. He was stopped on a four-lane stretch of the RN 7 highway where the speed limit is 56 mph.

Reagan faces battles with hostile Congress

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The hundredth Congress since American independence convened yesterday, with control of the Senate reverting to the Democrats, the formal setting up of the House and Senate committees to investigate the Iran arms affair and the election of new Democratic chairmen of all the important Senate committees.

Reassembling at noon for the traditional opening ceremonies, the two chambers elected their leaders: Congressmen Jim Wright of Texas, who became the Democratic Speaker overseeing the 258-177 Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, and Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, who resumed the post of majority leader in the Senate.

With the Democrats taking control of the Senate for the first time in six years, they began elections for leadership of the key committees. Senator Claiborne Pell, of Rhode Island, is due to take over from Senator Richard Lugar as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Sam Nunn, of Georgia, will take over from Senator Barry Goldwater as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Both will play a vital role in shaping and challenging President Reagan's defence and foreign policies in the next two years.

The Democrats have promised to take a tough stand in Congress after their sweeping election gains in November. The first immediate challenge is to the \$1,020 billion (about £680 billion) Reagan Administration budget, which even Republicans said had little chance of survival.

The Democrats will also press the Administration hard on tougher trade measures to fight foreign competition, on the intractable farm surplus, and on the Administration's arms control policies.

One immediate test will be an attempt to override President Reagan's veto of a Bill to clean up US rivers and waterways, which he said was too expensive. The Democrats will probably be able to muster enough votes to win this first symbolic victory.

However, the Democrats are still wary of pressing their advantage too hard, or appearing to close in on a weakened but still popular president. They may wait until after Mr Reagan's State of the Union message, now scheduled for January 27, before settling down for the expected big fights on trade and the budget.

The investigation of the Iran arms affair will take up much of the coming few months.



The Pope ordaining Monsignor Dino Mondazzi who, as a bishop, will become the new Prefect of the Pontifical Household. The episcopal ordination was one of 10 conducted by the Pope at St Peter's Basilica yesterday.

French power cuts cause chaos as industrial unrest spreads

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Although the huge show of strength against the French Government's pay policies, called for by the Communist CGT union, failed to materialize yesterday, strikes caused considerable disruption in many areas, including gas and electricity services, the ports, the Paris bus and Métro, as well as on the railways.

Power cuts of up to three hours in the capital not only hit heating and paralysed lifts and automatic doors, but also blocked out traffic signals, further aggravating the traffic jams caused by people bringing their cars into work in anticipation of public transport chaos.

In fact, the public transport service was less badly affected than expected, with two in three buses and one in two Métro trains running normally. Services were nevertheless unpredictable, with only one in eight trains running on some lines.

On the railways, the situation remained much the same as on the previous day with 40 per cent of main-line trains, two-thirds of Paris suburban trains and 90 per cent of the high-speed TGV intercity trains operating more or less normally, though still subject to long delays caused by strikers blocking tracks.

Although the month-old seamen's strike is almost over, dockers began a strike yesterday which again paralysed some ports. Cross-Channel ferry services were halted at least until today.

One-day strikes called by the CGT in other public sector areas, including posts and telecommunications, the Government arsenals and Renault cars were only sparsely followed.

Nevertheless, the CGT managed to assemble 10,000 supporters, according to the police — 40,000 according to the union — for a demonstration in Paris in protest against the Government's economic policies, with a similar number marching through the streets of Marseille.

But the strikes began causing problems in industry at large. The employers' organization CNPF said activity in the chemical, steel and metallurgy industries had dropped 30 per cent due to a lack of raw materials.

Si reports have seen falls of up to 40 per cent in the number of holidaymakers due to the train strike. Grain producers, too, have had difficulty in exporting cereals.

M. Eduard Balladur, the Finance Minister, again ruled out any question of a devaluation of the franc as it fell to its lowest permitted level within the European Monetary System in response to anxiety over the spreading unrest in France.

After an emergency meeting of the entire Cabinet, M. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, again insisted that the Government "would not deviate from its policies, because to do so would be irresponsible".

Priority, he said, must be given to the least well-off, the unemployed and the young who were seeking jobs. "It is in that direction that the national solidarity should tend, rather than in satisfying the demands, however legitimate, of those who are better off."

Through, noting that many Africans are hoping that the national reconciliation programme would end the nine years of suffering in the country, one embassy in Delhi points out that they — with most Western diplomats — are also suspicious of dramatic conversions made by previously uncompromising Afghan party leaders.

The embassy also says that the proposals represent a radical shift in the public stance of the ruling party, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and may set into motion events that neither the PDPA nor its Soviet overlords foresaw or will be able to control.

After the extraordinary plenary meeting of the party's central committee last week, at which Dr Najib, the party secretary, made his surprise announcement of the ceasefire, the National Revolutionary Council has established commissions to supervise the reconciliation process.

The leadership has made clear that the new Afghanistan will be independent, non-aligned and neutral, and will have a strongly Islamic identity.

Entrepreneurs will be encouraged and the ownership of private property legitimized. Passports will be freely available. The regime has promised to release political prisoners provided they undertake to give up the armed struggle, and has offered safe passage for guerrilla leaders who wish to participate in talks.

The Government has also promised to stop the halting demonstrations here against all Asian merchants.

Underlying the tensions are two bitter facts that have bedevilled efforts to improve community relations: the very high numbers of blacks who are unemployed, and the soaring crime rate among blacks. There are three blacks for every two whites in American prisons, though blacks account for only a tenth of the US population.

Whites continue to be fearful of young black males, and suspicious of blacks loitering in white neighbourhoods. The drug epidemic has also centred disproportionately on the black community.

The high rate of black illegitimacy, with almost 50 per cent of all black children in the big cities born out of wedlock to mothers dependent on welfare, has led to widely-expressed concern, by black and white officials, about the disintegration of the black family and the subsequent rise in poverty and crime.

Conservative columnists have bemoaned the lack of moral leadership in the black community, and have accused blacks of ignoring these facts while continuing to blame their ills on past discrimination. Mr William Buckley, a widely-read conservative, said white resentment "has to do with the scarcity of publicized black reprimands of such behaviour".

He said that while most black moralists deplored black crime and illegitimacy, those visible on the media were the kind given to calling President Reagan a racist.

In reply, Mr Courtland Milloy, an influential black writer, said in *The Washington Post* on Sunday that this was not surprising given the Administration's record on civil rights and the opposition to the Martin Luther King holiday by Mr Pat Buchanan, the White House director of communications.

He said it was likely that President Reagan had set the tone, indeed the atmosphere, for much of the racial conflict.

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The war in Afghanistan

Shevardnadze says political accord is closer than ever

By Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister and a close political ally of Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, said during a speech delivered in the Afghan capital of Kabul that a political settlement to the seven-year-old war in Afghanistan was now "feasible and as close as ever before".

Mr Shevardnadze, the most senior member of the Kremlin hierarchy to visit Afghanistan since the Soviet troops were sent in late in 1979, added: "The new year can and should mark the start of new relations between Afghanistan and all its neighbours and of its growing stronger a sovereign, independent country pursuing a policy of neutrality and non-alignment".

His optimistic assessment was given soon after his arrival there on Monday at a reception hosted by Dr Najib, the Afghan communist leader. The full text was only released yesterday by Tass.

The Soviet Minister, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation headed by Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Kremlin's chief foreign policy adviser, backed the recent ceasefire proposal made by Dr Najib and called for success for the ambitious national reconciliation plan unveiled last week.

"This is because this success will mean peace in a country which is our neighbour, and hence peace for us, too", Mr Shevardnadze said in an address clearly aimed at an international audience.

The upbeat speech was seen as designed to demonstrate full Kremlin support for Dr Najib's recent efforts to try and persuade the Muslim rebels to lay down their arms. Many Western observers are convinced that the plan was conceived during the Afghan

leader's talks in Moscow last month with Mr Gorbachov. Despite the Western scepticism which persists about the Kremlin's motives in launching such a high-profile visit, there are an increasing number of observers here convinced that one reason is to push ahead in the most visible manner possible the peace process launched by the Afghan leader.

Although his six month ceasefire offer has already been rejected by the main rebel leaders, its regional basis is seen as designed to bring over enough rebel fighters to the government camp to break the back of the resistance.

British scepticism: The Foreign Office yesterday maintained a sceptical attitude towards initiatives from Kabul and Moscow, with a withdrawal of Soviet troops will be believed when it is seen. (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

The Islamic Council, a London-based Muslim pressure group yesterday called for direct talks between Moscow and the rebels in Afghanistan. Mr Salem Azzam, Secretary General, said that the talks should be held in a Muslim non-aligned country and that Iran, Pakistan, and China should be asked to participate.

Mr Shevardnadze hopes for "independent" neighbour.

Kabul reconciliation is greeted with scepticism

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

While Western diplomats in Delhi say that the Afghan Government's drive for national reconciliation accompanied by a ceasefire offer to begin next week is generating optimism in Kabul, they themselves are greeting it with scepticism.

Through, noting that many Africans are hoping that the national reconciliation programme would end the nine years of suffering in the country, one embassy in Delhi points out that they — with most Western diplomats — are also suspicious of dramatic conversions made by previously uncompromising Afghan party leaders.

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Whites continue to be fearful of young black males, and suspicious of blacks loitering in white neighbourhoods. The drug epidemic has also centred disproportionately on the black community.

The high rate of black illegitimacy, with almost 50 per cent of all black children in the big cities born out of wedlock to mothers dependent on welfare, has led to widely-expressed concern, by black and white officials, about the disintegration of the black family and the subsequent rise in poverty and crime.

Conservative columnists have bemoaned the lack of moral leadership in the black community, and have accused blacks of ignoring these facts while continuing to blame their ills on past discrimination. Mr William Buckley, a widely-read conservative, said white resentment "has to do with the scarcity of publicized black reprimands of such behaviour".

He said that while most black moralists deplored black crime and illegitimacy, those visible on the media were the kind given to calling President Reagan a racist.

In reply, Mr Courtland Milloy, an influential black writer, said in *The Washington Post* on Sunday that this was not surprising given the Administration's record on civil rights and the opposition to the Martin Luther King holiday by Mr Pat Buchanan, the White House director of communications.

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Determined fight for a family's future

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

A French train driver said yesterday he was on strike "for the future of my wife and children: if this affair has become political, it's not our fault".

M. Marc Lottier said: "Our demands have nothing to do with wanting to overthrow the Government or break its pay policies. That's all rubbish."

Armed riot police moved along the almost-deserted platform outside the railwaymen's strike headquarters at the Gare du Nord in Paris as M. Lottier, aged 30, a thickset man with a heavy moustache, explained why he and his colleagues had been among the first to go on strike three weeks ago, and why they were determined to fight on despite the hardships.

Until last month, M. Lottier was a member of the communist-led CGT union to which he paid \$75 a year in dues, representing 1 per cent of his basic pay.

He resigned because he felt the union was no longer representing the interests of its rank and file. But it would have made no difference to his present situation had he remained a member.

In common with nearly all French unions, the CGT does not provide strike pay for its members — why most industrial disputes in France are so short-lived and why the present rail strike is so unusual. Most strikes last 24 hours at most.

As a train driver with 10 years' service with the SNCF, the state-owned French railways, M. Lottier was earning 9,000 francs (£960) a month in pay and bonuses for an average 39-hour week.

For the past three weeks he has received nothing. How does he manage when he has a three-bedroom house in the suburbs with a 6,000 francs-a-month mortgage, and a wife with two children, one aged two years and the other three days?

● I've lost nearly 10,000 francs. I'm not going to throw that away for nothing ●

"My wife earns 7,500 francs a month as a primary school teacher, and the bank has been generous in advancing us money on the mortgage."

"My mother-in-law normally looks after the children when my wife's at work. I'm not saying we haven't got it, but it's not easy. I'm lucky having a wife who totally supports what I'm doing. She knows it'll be her turn next if we give in."

As with the other railway workers, it was the proposed merit-based salary scales that proved the last straw for M. Lottier. But why shouldn't good workers be promoted more quickly than bad workers, rather than have promotion depend simply on length of service?

With the approach of the Martin Luther King holiday, a furor has erupted over the decision by the newly-elected Republican Governor of Arizona to abolish the state's observance of the day that honours America's revered black leader.

Governor Evan Mecham said Dr King, who was assassinated in 1968, was not as important as the only two other Americans honoured by a holiday, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. He was therefore rescinding the decision by the previous Democratic Governor to observe Dr King's birthday as a State holiday.

Black leaders have raised an outcry, saying the Governor's action is an insult to the black community. The King holiday has increasingly been seen not simply as a tribute to the man himself, but as official US recognition of its black citizens and heritage.

The row comes as race relations generally have suddenly taken a bitter turn for the worse throughout America. A series of incidents ranging from the racial attacks in New York to a Louisiana sheriff's order to police to stop and search any blacks found in white neighbourhoods has inflamed relations between blacks and whites, and led to a rash of accusations of continuing discrimination and prejudice.

The racial attack by a gang of white youths on three blacks at Howard Beach, a district of Queens borough in New York, has rocked Mayor Koch's administration, and led to an ugly exchange of accusations between blacks and police. It threatens to jeopardize many years of sensitive bridge-building between blacks and whites in America's largest city, and has already provoked backlash attacks by blacks on whites.

Other less-publicized incidents have contributed to black resentment and accusations of racism against the Reagan Administration. Demonstrations flared against

"You don't understand. What they mean by 'merit' is how amenable a worker is, whether he is willing to come out on a rest day at a moment's notice and things like that; not how efficient he is," he replied.

But had not the Government withdrawn those new scales?

"We've got nothing in writing," he said. "We have no guarantee that the scales will not be reintroduced under a different form. We want it down in black and white."

"If they succeed in imposing merit-based scales in the railways, you can be sure they'll try to introduce them throughout the whole of the public sector."

The second most important of the strikers' demands, according to M. Lottier, was for the integration of railway workers' bonuses into their basic pay.

"More than a third of what I earn is in so-called bonuses for unsocial hours, the number of miles I drive, and so on. But my pension and sickness benefit is based only on my basic pay. We don't think that's right."

"If we got satisfaction on that, the salary scales and better career prospects, we'd go back to work tomorrow."

"If there are no negotiations, it means that the Government doesn't want to negotiate. Our strike has nothing to do with increases in basic pay. Maybe some strikers are talking about that, but we drivers are not."

"The management says it hasn't more money. But our demands would cost in an entire year what the strike is costing the railways every day, that is to say 100 million francs."

Was the strike beginning to crumble as the management claims?

"Certainly not here," he replied to a chorus of agreement from other strikers standing around in the sparsely furnished room of the prefabricated cabin serving as the Gare du Nord strike headquarters.

"We're exactly the same number as when we began. We're more determined than ever. I've lost nearly 10,000 francs since the strike began. I'm not going to throw all that away for nothing."

"I've been coming in here with the other lads from 3 am until 7 pm every day to keep up morale. We're not going to give in now."

But how much longer could they all last with no pay coming in?

He looked glum. "Well, there's another meeting planned with the management for Thursday. Maybe we'll have to take another vote after that."

"It's true we can't go on for ever like this. But if we do have to go back to work without gaining anything, the whole climate on the railways is going to be very bad."

Citadel, a prestigious military academy in South Carolina, after being harassed by white students dressed in Ku-Klux-Klan garb.

White students at the University of Massachusetts set upon a group of blacks after a baseball game defeat. In Boston, an investigation of the emergency medical services found frequent use of the word "nigger", racial epithets and racist posters. And the activities of white supremacists have increased markedly: in North Carolina alone there were 60 marches by members of the Ku-Klux-Klan last year.

Racial tensions over housing and integration have led to an increasing number of flare-ups, according to the Justice Department. In Philadelphia, whites have used violence to keep blacks from moving into their neighbourhoods.

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Chinese students issue threat of protests despite onset of exams

From Robert Grievs, Peking

Even though mid-term examinations began for university students throughout China this week, the possibility of demonstrations similar to those that have disturbed 12 cities in the past month remain strong, students in Peking said yesterday.

Tomorrow will mark the eleventh anniversary of the death of Chou En-lai, the former Prime Minister, and of the mass movement against the Gang of Four that culminated in the so-called Tiananmen Incident of April 5, 1976, when hundreds of protesting students were beaten by the police in Peking's main square.

Even if nothing happens tomorrow, other students said, protests might occur next month during the annual spring festival holiday.

"There are in fact several anniversaries on which students are prepared to protest", a recent graduate of Peking University said.

In addition to January 8 and April 5, he listed September 18, the day on which Japanese troops invaded China in 1931, and December 9, the day on which Peking University students demonstrated against the Japanese occupation of their country in 1935.

The Tiananmen Incident is often cited by modern historians as the beginning of the rise of Mr Deng Xiaoping, now China's senior leader, and a nationwide repudiation of the reign of terror institutionalized by the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung in the Cultural Revolution from 1967 to 1976.

Mr Deng's rapid assumption of power was coupled with the development of the so-called Democracy Wall movement that reached full power in 1978. In large "big

character posters" that were fixed to a wall in the Xidan section of Peking just about anyone could give vent to his political opinion.

It was also Mr Deng who oversaw the end of the movement with the arrest of its young leaders a few years later when officials became concerned that the wall posters had become too anti-government in tone.

Political posters and calls for greater democracy and freedom, including freedom of the press, have characterized the present wave of demonstrations that began in the

More than 5,000 university students waving red banners marched in Dhaka yesterday in protest against a proposed ban on political activities by students (Ahmed Fazi writes from Dhaka).

The students laid siege to the Government's main education office where hundreds of riot police were deployed.

southern city of Changsha early last month.

But, one student said yesterday, the call for democracy remains largely undefined. "Does it mean the right to choose a job or to elect officials?" he asked. "I don't think people are thinking about those distinctions."

In Shanghai last month demonstrating students said that they had drawn inspiration for their protests from American-style democracy.

A Voice of America reporter was mobbed by about 5,000 students who said that the station, which has an estimated Chinese audience of 50 million, was their only source of real news about China. In addition, a large banner bearing a picture of the Statue of Liberty was appar-

ently carried near the Bund (one of the main streets).

Chinese Communist Party conservatives in the New China News Agency have blamed Voice of America for helping to instigate the demonstrations, but the central Government has generally tried to be flexible in its handling of the situation.

"The Government has contained the demonstrations without suppressing them", one Western diplomat said on Tuesday. "That is essential if Mr Deng's reforms are to continue on course."

But Mr Deng and his supporters may yet be forced to become stricter. On Monday, about 400 students at Peking University burnt copies of the Peking Daily, the party newspaper, to protest at what they said were lies it had carried about the demonstrations.

Yesterday's edition of the newspaper said that the burning confirmed the fact that the newspaper "hits the sore spot of some elements who are hostile towards socialism".

The Government-controlled People's Daily had a strongly-worded commentary on its front page yesterday condemning the student demonstrations and calling for a "clearcut stand against bourgeois liberalization".

● Revolution cost: Official Chinese sources have published an estimate of about £200 billion for the damage done to the country's economy during the Cultural Revolution (David Bonavia writes from Peking).

During what is now officially called the "decade of chaos", industrial production fell because of strikes and factional fighting, agriculture did badly and China's foreign trade was disrupted.



You can lead a duck to water... Farmers in Huzhou city, in China's Zhejiang province, taking their flocks of geese and ducks to a nearby watering hole. The procession remains a daily ritual in modern China for the farmers and their livestock.

Vanunu on hunger strike in prison

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — An Israeli technician accused of passing atomic secrets to the British press has begun a prison hunger strike to protest against what he said were efforts to break him, the newspaper Haaretz reported yesterday.

It said that Mr Mordechai Vanunu, aged 31, told his family: "They give me the food like a dog, isolate me 23 hours a day in a closed room, and try

to break me. I'm going on a hunger strike."

He gave his story and pictures to The Sunday Times for ideological reasons, his brother Asher said. The story was based on Mr Vanunu's 10 years at a top secret Israeli nuclear reactor. He is accused of spying and treason.

Mr Vanunu, his brother told Haaretz, "is no spy but a naive man trying to set the nation straight. In his opinion, our

leaders, are not trustworthy enough and so he tried something to awaken the Israeli people from their slumber."

His conscience could no longer bear "all that took place at the atom factory".

Israelis have asked how their security services could have allowed Mr Vanunu to work in the nuclear industry despite evidence of his being an activist on behalf of Palestinians.

Japan steps in to counter Soviet links in Oceania

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan is moving to expand its economic aid and influence in the South Pacific to fill the vacuum left by declining Western influence and as a counterweight to increased Soviet activity.

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Tadatoshi Kusumoto, is starting a visit to Oceania which will take in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

In Fiji he will make what the Japanese Foreign Ministry terms a "major speech" outlining Japan's new interest in and commitment to an area part of which was a Japanese administered territory after the First World War and part of which was overrun by Japanese troops in the Second World War.

The new Japanese role in the South Pacific has been urged on Tokyo by Europe and the United States for some time but it has become more pressing since the Soviet Union reached a \$1.7 million (£1.1 million) fishing agreement with Kiribati in 1985 and started negotiations for similar arrangements with Vanuatu, which already has connections with Libya, Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Though the agreements suggested have been concerned with access for Soviet fishing vessels to local waters, the talks with Vanuatu are also thought to have covered the possibility of port access. No agreement has yet been signed with Vanuatu.

The area is a sensitive one for American weapons tests and the Russians are believed to monitor them with fishing boats equipped with intelligence-gathering equipment.

However, the US has been showing less and less interest in the area, apparently content to leave Western South Pacific interests in the hands of the

New Zealanders and Australians. But the Australian interest itself has been declining in terms of willingness to provide aid much to the surprise of the Japanese, who have found the willingness to concede in effect business in the area to Japanese firms hard to understand.

Some sections of the Japanese Foreign Ministry have been worried about Canberra's lack of concern about the security of the area.

But Tokyo's initial diplomatic commitment has been firm and has vowed against the French at the United Nations on the issue of independence for New Caledonia. However, Mr Kusumoto's speech is likely to be more theoretical than monetary in interest.

"The speech will be full of fine sentiments but when you come to put up the money to be spent there is likely to be a divergence between what they'd like to do and what they are prepared to do," a Western diplomat said.

● SYDNEY: Australia announced yesterday it would not retaliate against a French Government decision to suspend indefinitely ministerial visits with Canberra, the latest step in a dispute which has brought relations between the two countries to their lowest ebb (Stephen Taylor writes).

Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister, said in Brisbane that the French action was unjustified and regrettable, but that to respond would be "immature and inappropriate".

France has been incensed by the part played by Australia in a United Nations debate on New Caledonia in which South Pacific nations were successful in having the territory classified as a colony rather than, as the French maintain, an extension of metropolitan France.

'Indira loyalists' launch new party

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A group of dissident former members of India's Congress (I) party calling themselves "Indira loyalists" have launched a new political party with a series of attacks on the country's leadership.

The group, led by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, the former Finance Minister and virtually Deputy Prime Minister until Mrs Indira Gandhi's death, accused Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, of deviating from his mother's policies, thereby jeopardizing India's socialist interests.

Mr Mukherjee was elected president of the new party, called the National Socialist Congress (Rashtriya Samajwadi Congress). It includes other disappointed figures such as Mr Gundu Rao, former Chief Minister of Karnataka, and Mr Mayapathi Tripathi, expelled from Congress despite being the son of the veteran Congress leader, Kamalapati Tripathi.

It is not clear even now why Mr Mukherjee fell out with Mr Gandhi, but the rift was terminal. Mr Mukherjee was the first minister to be dropped from the Cabinet two years ago. He was driven out of the party last year.

Others have been held at arms length by Mr Gandhi because of a taint of corruption which did not bother Mrs Gandhi. She prized personal loyalty above almost all else.

Yesterday's celebrations began with a visit to Shakti Sthal, Mrs Gandhi's cremation site. A party declaration read out later complained that Mrs Gandhi had been squeezed out of the Government while those who betrayed her had been given jobs.

Mr Rao, who read the declaration, said that within two years of Mrs Gandhi's death much of the country was in the grip of secessionists and violence. Mr Gandhi was surrounded by Indira baiters

and feudal elements, he said.

Mr Mukherjee, in his inaugural address, said the convention was necessary because of the dilution of Congress ideology and the liquidation of the party. He said the Government was deviating from Mrs Gandhi's principles by encouraging multinationalism and privatizing key sectors of the economy.

He said that records concluded by the Government in Punjab, Assam and Mizoram endangered the unity and integrity of India.

Mr Mukherjee particularly



Mr Mukherjee: attacks on Congress leadership.

objected to the way Mr Shriard Pawar, leader of the Congress (S) had been welcomed back into the fold, after having deserted the party at a critical hour.

Mrs Gandhi's daughter-in-law, Mrs Menaka Gandhi, out of the political limelight for the past two years, was present at the convention and gave a welcome speech. She is the widow of Mrs Gandhi's younger son Sanjay, and president of her own party, the National Sanjay Platform (Rashtriya Sanjay Manch).

Two senior figures from Mr Pawar's Congress (S) party who opposed the recent merger with Congress (I) were also present. They were Mr S. C. Sinha, and Mr K. P. Unnikrishnan.

Indonesia slashes spending

From A Correspondent Jakarta

President Suharto of Indonesia yesterday unveiled a severe austerity budget which slashed government spending and froze wages of civil servants and the military for a second year in an effort to counter rising foreign debt payments and falling oil prices.

Foreign economists described the budget as "cautious" and the President called on nationwide television for courage in facing the year ahead. He assured lenders that Indonesia would honour its debts.

Debt service payments will account for almost one-third of the year's 22.7 trillion rupiahs (£9 billion) in budgeted government expenditure, down by more than 25 per cent from last year in US dollar terms, though up slightly in rupiah terms from 1986.

President Suharto, aged 65, who is conducting general elections in April, said the Government had used a price of \$15 per barrel of oil as a basis for the budget calculations, which the Minister for Energy, Dr Subroto, said took into account fluctuations in the international market.

Last year government planners were caught short, and the current account deficit rose to an estimated 4.09 billion rupiahs when oil prices, estimated at \$25 a barrel, sank below \$10.

The Minister for National Development Planning, Dr Johannes Sumardj, told reporters after the budget announcement that the Government should not "just read figures", but viewed 1987 as the first time in 13 years when Indonesia's dependency on oil would fall below 50 per cent of export earnings.

Before 1986, the country was dependent on oil and gas for about 70 per cent

González pledges terror law reform

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Fresh efforts were going on behind the scenes yesterday but the new Basque parliament risks assembling tomorrow without agreement even on choosing a Speaker.

The local Socialist Party, which is showing understanding over the anti-terrorism law, is demanding in turn a firm attitude from the nationalist forces against any political negotiations with the Basque separatist movement Eta but obtaining less than the desired response.

A case against charges of the anti-terrorism law is awaiting judgement by Spain's constitutional court and Señor Gregorio Peces Barba, who was Speaker of the Madrid Parliament when the law was passed and is a leading socialist constitutional lawyer, has now joined the opposition to the law.

"The sooner it is repealed, or at least left in abeyance, the

better," he declared, giving an opinion that it contravenes the European Human Rights Convention.

The most controversial clause allows the Spanish police 10 days in which to hold a terrorist suspect for interrogation, incommunicado and before presenting him to a magistrate. Señor Rafael Vera, head of Spain's state security forces, now maintains that the 10-day period is not being fully used. He said six days were sufficient. The law will not be repealed, he added.

Señor Juan Benavides, one of the Basque politicians involved in the government talks, argued the anti-terrorism law has abundantly proved itself counter-productive in the peculiar Basque context. It creates more suspicion of the Spanish national police among the Basques, he said, when the security forces above all need local co-operation.

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SPECTRUM

One man, one vote, one ANC

Led from his prison cell by Nelson Mandela, the exiled African National Congress is 75 years old this week and more influential than ever. George Brock assesses its strength

Last weekend, three South African professors shelved their plans to visit the headquarters in Zambia of the African National Congress, which is preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary this week.

In the perspective of three-quarters of a century — the ANC is the oldest nationalist movement in southern Africa — it was a minor hitch. But the three travellers who drew back at the last moment were not English-speakers but Afrikaners, who were going to discuss with ANC officials a possible Bill of Rights for a post-apartheid South Africa. Their wavering over the journey to Lusaka neatly illustrates the ambivalent views which many South Africans hold about the organization which has had no legal presence inside the country for 27 years.

The shifting views of the organization among whites lie somewhere on a scale between President Botha's picture of it as the leading edge of the communist "total onslaught", and the idea that the ANC is a Christian social democratic association driven to violence only as a last resort. The truth lying between these extremes is complex, but the ANC's long and relatively stable history is one of its most important strengths, and has been crucial in making it the centre of political gravity for South Africa's 18 million blacks.

When other organizations have been weakened or destroyed by the debilitating rivalries which flourish in the inactivity of exile, the ANC has held together. While platforms and bargaining positions have shifted around it, the ANC has held stubbornly to its push for "one man, one vote".

The ANC's actual support is impossible to measure with any accuracy in present conditions; surveys generally award it more support than any other party, but not necessarily a majority. But it is beyond question that the last few years have seen an upturn in the ANC's fortunes, taking it to a peak of influence and activity it has not enjoyed since the 1930s.

Two years ago, a range of surprising voices suggested that President Botha's government should enter talks with the ANC, a view also shared by 43 per cent of whites surveyed in an opinion poll. Perhaps the ANC's greatest symbolic coup was the visit by a group of powerful white businessmen to Lusaka in September 1985. The tycoons, while uneasy about the ANC's vagueness on future nationalization, and fearful of violence, were nevertheless impressed.

It was only one of a string of moves between the ANC's presidential president, Oliver Tambo, and businessmen in Europe and the



Two faces of Africa: Oliver Tambo (left), ANC president and ex-Marxist, with Joe Slovo, the ANC's military chief and a leading Communist

THE CONGRESS: 75 YEARS OF DEFIANCE



Muffled leader: Nelson Mandela

1912: Founded as South African Native National Congress
1923: Renamed African National Congress
1936: Black voters removed from electoral roll in the Cape
1948: National Party win while general election. Legal institutionalization of apartheid begins
1955: Freedom Charter drafted
1959: Pan Africanist Congress breaks away
1960: Sharpeville shootings. ANC and PAC banned
1961: Umkhonto we Sizwe formed
1963-4: ANC/UMKonto leaders, including Mandela, tried and sentenced in "Rivonia" trial
1967: Oliver Tambo becomes acting president
1976: Soweto riots
1983: United Democratic Front formed
1986: Full-scale state of emergency declared June 16

annual average for the previous decade. Estimates of the number of men Umkhonto deploys in the country vary between 400-500 (the verdict of a leading academic ANC-watcher) and 20-50 (the police version). They may have succeeded in infiltrating the South African army, an army major is currently being held on suspicion of espionage, said to be connected with the ANC.

The second change to emerge from the storm that hit Soweto in 1976 was in the style of political campaigning. The ANC's strategists realized that the fury of the schoolchildren led nowhere if the currents of anger did not flow between generations and different townships.

In the early 1980s, grassroots political movements in the townships were anyway building organizations devoted to campaigning on local issues: squatter camp removals, rents, housing and schools. In 1983, many of the same organizations became caught up in the campaign against the govern-

ment's proposals for a new parliament with houses for coloureds and Indians, but not for blacks, and the United Democratic Front was born. Its tactics and fervour were reminiscent of ANC popular campaigns in the 1950s, but it also bound up members and leaders of lesser movements: Indian congress leaders, trade unionists and black consciousness activists. The Front's major affiliates subscribe to the nebulous "Freedom Charter", drafted by the ANC in 1955, although it is not compulsory.

The ANC faces two serious problems in its push for support outside black South Africa. First, it has failed to condemn the anarchic cruelty of the "comrades" in the townships and civilian casualties in bombings; second, its leadership overlaps with the hierarchy of the South African Communist Party and many of Umkhonto's weapons are from the Soviet Union.

On violence, it is an organization of several faces and several voices.

Winnie Mandela will be quoted as advocating the use of the "necklace" (a petrol-filled tyre placed round the neck and then set alight) against "collaborators" in the townships. The next day, Tambo will explain that it is not ANC policy after all. But even he has recently been forced to acknowledge that his younger members are pressing for less squeamish choices of bombing targets.

The South African communists have never hidden their long association with the ANC. The Pretoria government claims that all but seven of the 30-person ANC executive is communist; academic estimates usually put it at less than half.

It is plainly absurd to picture the ANC as a purely Christian social democratic organization. But nor is it a certainty that communists would automatically seize power from their more moderate colleagues once the first phase of a nationalist victory was achieved. Tambo, who is very clearly not a Marxist, has hinted that the more friendly the interest taken by the West, the less pronounced the communist influence will be.

These questions of the future eventually boil down to a view of the mind of one 68-year-old man, Nelson Mandela, whose image dominates the entire ANC but whose thoughts are only occasionally filtered out of his prison cell, and then via intermediaries.

His views — apparently moderate ones — on all these questions are likely to prevail if he ever gets out of jail. It is clear that last year the South African cabinet toyed with the idea of releasing him, but finally went in the opposite direction and imposed the state of emergency. They are unlikely to have been considering his release on humanitarian grounds. They were no doubt calculating that were he to be in Pollsmoor Prison, the rage in the townships across the land might be uncontrollable.

Making of a mandarin

From today 3,000 undergraduates begin an exam to enter the Civil Service, but a far tougher test lies ahead. Simon Tait reports

Students say to me: "My god, I'm not going to be selected with the appalling procedures you operate," said Dennis Trevelyan, the First Permanent Civil Service Commissioner. "In fact it's no different from the procedures operated by Marks & Spencer now, but there's no fear of Marks & Spencer. There's great fear of the Civil Service; I want to demystify it."

The appalling procedures are the commission's three-stage process of selecting the Civil Service "fast lane" recruits. For about 3,000 undergraduates promising at least second-class honours degrees, it starts today and tomorrow when they sit the Qualifying Test (QT), cognitive exams a bit like Mensa's, with a second set sitting in October.

Only about 300 will get through to the central Civil Service selection board, known as Clab, which is the real test. After that comes a gruelling interview, and of the year's total of 5,000 fast-track applicants fewer than 100 will win through.

At the prize are glittering: they will be catapulted through the system as administration graduates (ATs) to find their selves, perhaps as young as 25, principals earning £17,000-plus a year, with the certainty of forming the "core of the mandarinate" within the next 20 years, and possibly becoming the Sir Robert Armstrong of the 21st century.

"Our ideal AT has been described as the Archangel Gabriel on a good day," said Teddy Morgan, who, with Trevelyan and Nick Gurney, forms the triumvirate of Civil Service commissioners. They are searching for more and more potential archangels, and from beyond the traditional breeding ground of Oxbridge arts and sciences.

But many of our best young brains will not have bothered to apply, and in particular by Clab's fearsome reputation. Private industry is attracting more talent than before and the reduction of the Civil Service's senior management, cut by 100,000 in five years, has also had its effect on recruitment.

Needing to broaden the base to draw in a potential new breed of mandarins, the commissioners have just finished a three-year programme of visiting not only every university but also every polytechnic in their demystification process. Their prize was the first polytechnic: Clab success last year.

The complexities of Clab are more than an intellectual game for Oxbridge Fellows. Clab is the central part of the

selection mechanism. Invented by the commissioners 40 years ago, it has been copied in industry here and abroad. It costs about £15,000 per successful head. The 20 per cent who pass their QTs and go on to Clab will be assessed in groups of five and batches of 20 by a psychologist, a middle-ranking civil servant and a retired mandarin every minute of two days. They will be judged on their intellectual powers, penetration, judgement, maturity, emotional stability — 11 "boxes" in all.

In the hardest test, the groups become committees in which each member takes a turn as chairman, trying to manipulate agreement for his solution to a problem. And each is interviewed for 40 minutes separately by each assessor. A third day is taken by the assessors to make their judgements.

"I don't think anybody in their right mind enjoys a thing like that," said Stephen Kershaw, a Clab graduate now a year into his career. "It is rigorous, but stimulating." Of the 20, four may get to the final selection board on which a commissioner and representatives of the Civil Service, commerce, industry and academia will grill them for 35 minutes each in the only formal interview.



The shrinking of the Civil Service has put such pressure on management that fast-trackees are now having to take on management roles they didn't before. "Nowadays it's no good just to be able to think great thoughts," said Trevelyan. "You've got to be able to run things, you've got to be a good all-rounder." In 1982, 50 fast-trackees were sought, 24 were appointed — 17 from Oxford or Cambridge. In 1986 100 was the target for the first time of the 82 who made it 43 were non-Oxbridge. This year, another 100 is the aim.

"We're saying we don't give a fig whether you went to Oxford or Trent Poly, what matters is what you bring with you," said Gurney.

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Forgotten frontier

The 16 men of the British Frontier Service play a crucial role in Germany's daily border drama



Guiding light: Tom Jones on duty at Helmstedt

From the little wooden observation platform on the banks of the Auer River in the divided village of Hotensleben, 130 miles south of Lübeck, Tom Jones is showing yet another group of visitors the harsh reality of the inner German border.

As he points out across the concrete walls and electrified fence to where the patrolling dogs are straining on running lines, the cameras of the East German guards in the watchtower a few hundred yards away swing to catch him in their viewfinders.

It is a daily drama in which he has been a player for the past 16 years. As the head of the tiny, but vital, detachment of British Frontier Service personnel responsible for border duties, Jones, a 61-year-old former military police man, is just about the most photographed figure by the East Germans, who tend to snap anything and everybody that moves.

Familiarity, however, has not bred complacency. Someone in the party on the viewing platform spots two workmen on the roof of a house in the village across the border and is about to wave to establish a little human contact. Jones stays his hand.

"Don't forget," he cautions, "even if they don't wave back they could be in danger. The guards are not only watching us, they are also watching us. They are also watching us. A wave from this side, no matter how innocent, could be interpreted as a signal, perhaps in connection with an escape, and it is not fair to endanger someone else simply for a few seconds' fun."

The main duty of Jones and his three colleagues is to act as guides, from their base at the main Helmstedt crossing point, to all British Army and RAF patrols by air and on the ground along the 375-mile section of the border — from Lübeck in the North to Göt-

tingen in the South — which is the responsibility of the British.

The East German fortifications are built inside the actual border, which meanders through forests, across hills and along rivers for its entire length. Any military incursions could lead to a diplomatic incident, and the military rely on the detailed knowledge possessed by Jones and his men, which would also be vital in times of war.

The British Frontier Service has been much reduced from its original post-war strength of 300 to just 16 men, mainly ex-military. Dubbed the "Forgotten Army", apart from its border duties it also performs some customs and immigration services in West Germany.

The strength of the human spirit in attempting to defy the daily deprivations of the border still impresses Jones. In one village, he says, an old

woman regularly cleans her west-facing windows whenever there are people moving along the far side of the border; in reality, he says, she is merely disguising her waves.

More than most, he knows the courage it takes to attempt an escape from the East. While the efforts to breach the wall in Berlin attract most headlines, small numbers of refugees still come across the inner German border — last month in the Helmstedt area alone there were four, including a 26-year-old woman.

Although they have removed the anti-personnel mines and automatic firing devices on the border, the East Germans have now perfected a more elaborate detection system with sensors which can tell the difference between human and animal contact before triggering the alarms.

According to Jones the East German border guards are now under orders to fire only to maintain civilian escapees, for which they are rewarded, but to shoot to kill if any of their colleagues attempt to flee to the West.

The British Frontier Service have little contact with the escapees, who are handled by the West German authorities, partly to prevent local personnel innocently disclosing information which could be picked up by monitoring from the East German guards.

Jones's easy-going manner and Liverpool brand of humour can make it all seem like a game. "It is not a game at all. We only wish it was, and then maybe life would be a lot easier," he says. "Thousands of people each year come to see the border but I tell them it's not a tourist attraction, it's the line separating two worlds — the physical explanation of why all our forces, and those of the allies, are here."

Peter Davenport

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1149

ACROSS

- Hopeful type (8)
- Virtuoso (4)
- Unlawful (7)
- Relieves (5)
- Summarize (5)
- Potassium nitrate (5)
- Item records (5)
- Trainee officer (5)
- Five ploughed soil (5)
- Hidden store (5)
- Giver (5)
- Writing collection (7)
- Habitual procedure (4)
- Congregate (8)

DOWN

- Deviation (6)
- Very able (8)
- Large cup (5)
- Embarrassed (4,5)
- Container (4)
- Throwing plate (6)
- Metal pattern (8)
- Crustive relaxation (4,4)
- Cream, wine, lemon dessert (8)
- Andean culture (6)
- Quarrel (6)
- Biting insect (4)
- Born as (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1148

ACROSS: 1 Amuse 5 Shrive 8 Asp 9 Cordons 10 Infamy 11 Lien 12 Assail 14 Quagmire 15 Quagmire 16 Gilt 17 Gilt 18 Gilt 19 Gilt 20 Gilt 21 Gilt 22 Gilt 23 Gilt 24 Gilt 25 Gilt 26 Gilt 27 Gilt 28 Gilt 29 Gilt 30 Gilt 31 Gilt 32 Gilt 33 Gilt 34 Gilt 35 Gilt 36 Gilt 37 Gilt 38 Gilt 39 Gilt 40 Gilt 41 Gilt 42 Gilt 43 Gilt 44 Gilt 45 Gilt 46 Gilt 47 Gilt 48 Gilt 49 Gilt 50 Gilt 51 Gilt 52 Gilt 53 Gilt 54 Gilt 55 Gilt 56 Gilt 57 Gilt 58 Gilt 59 Gilt 60 Gilt 61 Gilt 62 Gilt 63 Gilt 64 Gilt 65 Gilt 66 Gilt 67 Gilt 68 Gilt 69 Gilt 70 Gilt 71 Gilt 72 Gilt 73 Gilt 74 Gilt 75 Gilt 76 Gilt 77 Gilt 78 Gilt 79 Gilt 80 Gilt 81 Gilt 82 Gilt 83 Gilt 84 Gilt 85 Gilt 86 Gilt 87 Gilt 88 Gilt 89 Gilt 90 Gilt 91 Gilt 92 Gilt 93 Gilt 94 Gilt 95 Gilt 96 Gilt 97 Gilt 98 Gilt 99 Gilt 100 Gilt 101 Gilt 102 Gilt 103 Gilt 104 Gilt 105 Gilt 106 Gilt 107 Gilt 108 Gilt 109 Gilt 110 Gilt 111 Gilt 112 Gilt 113 Gilt 114 Gilt 115 Gilt 116 Gilt 117 Gilt 118 Gilt 119 Gilt 120 Gilt 121 Gilt 122 Gilt 123 Gilt 124 Gilt 125 Gilt 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WEDNESDAY PAGE

A sister for the dying

Britain's first hospital ward devoted to Aids patients is due to open on Monday next week. Sally Brompton meets the woman chosen — from an unusually large number of applicants — to run it

Jaqui Elliott considers working with Aids sufferers no more distressing than nursing renal patients who are forced to endure a life-or-death wait in the hope that one day they might receive a new kidney. "For them, the most depressing thing is the uncertainty," she says.

While the lay world quivers over the lengthening spectre of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Elliott regards its victims simply as patients, to be cared for and consoled to the best of her — and her colleagues' — ability.

It is something to which she will be devoting herself completely over the next few months in her new role as sister of Britain's first purpose-built ward for the treatment of patients suffering from the Aids virus. When the £350,000 Broderip Ward opens for business at London's Middlesex Hospital next week with six patients, 26-year-old Elliott will be out in front, heading her team of 14 hand-picked staff nurses aged from 22 to 35.

For many people, the idea of this useful team nursing patients for whom there is no hope and no cure conjures up images of dedication beyond the call of duty. Jaqui Elliott scoffs at such a suggestion. "I'm so fed up with the popular image of nurses as Goody Two Shoes. Even that line about 'wanting to help people' has become clichéd by the *Miss World* contestants."

"We're skilled people who have studied and practised and who like to think we're intelligent and simply doing a job of work."

Certainly, nursing was not a childhood ambition for this former dancing teacher, the only child of a City director. It seemed, she says, "a slightly more stable career" than teaching ballet and tap. Having trained and worked at the Middlesex, she nursed children at Great Ormond Street and worked in the renal unit of Guy's. She applied for her present job because "I thought I could do it and it sounded challenging. Aids patients are very special people; there's no doubt about that. They have amazing courage. Besides, I do think someone has got to put a more positive face on it."

Surprisingly, perhaps, there were a large number of applicants for her job and more than double the number needed for the other nursing posts.



A job of work: Jaqui Elliott in her new ward — "Aids patients are very special people. They have amazing courage"

Elliott selected the applicants whom she considered to possess what she describes as insight. "You obviously have to look for people who want to do it for the right reasons. It's no good them having the attitude of Aids is the in-thing, I've never looked after an Aids patient before, so let's do it now. I wanted people who are caring without being hysterical."

She herself was picked, according to Professor Stephen Semple at the Middlesex, because "she seemed to have the most sensible approach to the problem. She came across as a very down-to-earth young lady who would be able to cope with the emotional and physical strain, as well as being a first-class nurse."

She had worked with Aids patients at the Middlesex in the past, during the initial appearance of the disease in Britain, and considers it to be no more dangerous to nursing staff than hepatitis-B or tuberculosis. She and her nurses will wear protective clothing — gloves and aprons — only when dealing with blood or other body fluids. "Nothing special. But the emergence of Aids has made us all aware of a tightening up of what we do every day, such as patient confidentiality."

Of the built-in dependency element of nursing no-hoppers, she says: "There's no cure for Aids today, but there may be tomorrow. I have implicit faith in my medical colleagues to come up with something in the near future. You just have to treat the symptoms as they come along, keep a positive attitude and provide the best

possible nursing care for the patients. And it isn't limited to giving out bedpans — you have to treat them as a whole, mentally and physically, as well as all the people around them — family, colleagues and friends."

"You need to be sensitive but you need to be positive, too. You have to appreciate the limits of your own job and be aware of the point at which someone else might do it better. There again, the patient might find it easier to talk to one of the domestics rather than to one of our psychologists."

"Obviously, when somebody dies it hits you but it's the same for anyone working on a cancer ward. Anywhere where people are dying puts a strain on you. It's the way that you approach the work that counts."

Even so, she will be keeping a close eye on her nursing staff to ensure that the inevitable stresses of the job do not wear them down. "Socially I'll be trying to keep up morale and I'll also make sure that they are aware that there are professionals around for them to talk to."

In fact, she has found that the greatest stresses of Aids come not from working with the patients but from the people she meets who have nothing to do with the medical profession and are prejudiced by ignorance and fear. "It's very difficult to wipe out these attitudes and I sometimes feel I'm beating my head against a brick wall. It makes me feel tremendously sympathetic towards the patients because they're actually having to live with it."

For the patients themselves, dwelling in a twilight world, relationships with nursing staff can be the most

important factor in their abbreviated lives. At the Middlesex, where the majority are homosexual men, Elliott has found that their attitude is frequently one of amazement that there are people prepared to help them in the face of what they see to be widespread prejudice against them.

He idea that it is a gay plague still lives on in many people's memories, she says. "I've no prejudice and I don't see Aids victims as people infected with the virus."

She is aware of the danger to her own life, not of catching Aids — a risk she dismisses as minimal — but of allowing it to dominate her entirely. "You could get to the point where you eat, sleep and breathe Aids. It's very important to be carrying on a normal life outside. If you devoted all your time to it you would just go mad."

Her family and friends have been entirely supportive. "My mum was very chuffed about the whole thing. My dad was a little bit anxious but I think I've managed to educate him."

Her main concern now is to make a success of a project that is a trail blazer in British medical care. "I've never set up a unit before and because there's never been one like this there are no guidelines. But I think we probably will get it right because I've done a fair bit of homework."

"I'm not angel of mercy, nor am I walking around with a death wish. I want to be here. And I want to be doing this job."

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'Could a child mistake a parent for a sexual abuser?'

A few days before Christmas, I read of the death of Mrs Judy Johnson, 47, of Manhattan Beach, California. The cause of death is still uncertain: suicide has been suggested.

For the last three years, she had been at the centre of a child abuse case in which the owners and staff of a posh Los Angeles Nursery School were accused of 200 counts of child molestation, including satanic rituals and drug orgies.

Mrs Johnson's story raises key questions about our attitudes and procedures in relation to child abuse. This is a delicate area, I fear. The child abuse movement has become a little like the peace movement, where anyone who questions procedures is held to be pro-war. Anyone who argues with proposed remedies may find themselves regarded as a person who doesn't care about the problem.

It was the charge by Mrs Johnson that her son, aged two and a half, had been molested that began the California investigation. Johnson called dozens of parents in her community, repeating her accusations against the school and asking them to question their children. Local police sent out a letter to parents encouraging them to ask their children if any one of them had been the subject of unnatural acts at school. The response was overwhelming. Seven people were arrested, including the 60-year-old grandmother who owned the school.

But not everyone was convinced. The case's chief prosecutor resigned, claiming that virtually no evidence existed for the charges and stating his belief that all defendants in the case were innocent. The children, he claimed, had been interrogated for hours on end and given leading questions. They were praised for accounts of abuse, but "chastised" for denying it.

In Hamilton, Ontario, a wardship hearing over two girls is now in its eighteenth month. The girls have told the court of sexual abuse, cannibalism and satanic murders they claim were carried out by their mother and her boyfriend.

The girls made the charges after their mother had voluntarily put them in care because of her personal problems. There is not a shred of evidence to support the extraordinary tales of the two children, and had the climate not been so attuned to the menace of child abuse the

fantastic stories would have been dismissed after police initially investigated them and decided not to recommend charges. But a bevy of social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists and therapists worked with the children, eliciting volumes of video tapes with them, and the case took on a momentum of its own.

The children themselves have never been examined directly in court during 138 days of testimony. Recently the court was cautioned by Dr Clive Chamberlain, a leading Canadian child psychiatrist. "You can put

capacity for fantasy that any healthy active child has.

This is equally true of well-intentioned efforts in schools to raise very young children's awareness of sexual abuse through videos and chats. Recently, one mother who was innocently preparing her child for a bath after a day at her North London nursery school, found her daughter pulling away from her as she took off her knickers. "You mustn't touch me there," said the girl, shrinking from her parent. What, thought the mother, if the child complained to her school that her parents "touched her there"?

This problem is made worse by the use of so-called educational videos on sexual abuse and the understandable reluctance to make them too explicit. Given the necessary vagueness our educators use in talking about sexual situations to young children, is it so improbable that a child might mistake a neighbour who innocently undresses without fully closing the curtains for a sexual "flasher", or a parent taking off her knickers for a sexual abuser?

Far more serious are the proposed changes in the Criminal Justice Bill that keep children out of the courtroom and permit them to give their evidence in sexual assault cases by video link only. Our system of justice has always presumed that the accused is innocent until proven guilty. By indicating to the jury that a child cannot face the accused in open court you are reversing the onus of guilt and creating the psychological presumption that the accused has done something so dreadful the child must be protected from him.

None of these problems seems to me insoluble, but because so little attention is paid to them I can't help feeling that, in its zeal, the child abuse bandwagon either does not think its proposals through or simply does not care about such niceties as the presumption of innocence. Of course, every age has its fashionable hysteria, and our period seems to have fastened on to smoking and child abuse. Both of these problems are absolutely legitimate areas of our concern but it's worth remembering that an hysterical reaction is an hysterical reaction even when there is a tiger in the bedroom.

Barbara Amiel

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Out shopping for an inside job

Julie is a test-shopper, one of a growing army of undercover security workers who spend their days buying bars of soap and keeping a sharp eye out for staff with their hand in the till. "It's a bit cloak and dagger," says Julie, who goes on these expeditions disguised simply as herself — an unassuming housewife in a slightly shabby smock.

Shoplifting always hits the headlines at busy times like Christmas and New Year. But inside fiddles — which test-shopping is designed to prevent — are a year-round and growing problem.

Prices rise by an estimated 5p in the pound every year to cover unexplained losses and increased security costs — and a recent Home Office report suggested that the highest proportion of losses was due to dishonest staff rather than customers.

Julie is married to a lorry driver and lives in a council house in a quiet suburb. She joined Group 4 Security as a test-shopper for

something to do when her children grew up, and is now supervisor of a team of 20.

Like all security jobs, test-shopping is nine parts boredom, but the tenth part, which involves monitoring split-second transactions, is a highly skilled business. Each new recruit is given a minimum of 60 hours' training at Group 4's Cotswolds headquarters.

They learn how to spot the innocent-looking pile of sweet papers which may be a tally for money to be taken out of a till. They also learn how to perform in court. "I never lose sight of the fact that you're dealing with people's reputations," says Julie. "I'd never accuse anybody of anything without being one hundred per cent sure."

I spent a day on the road with Julie, test-shopping in a hardware chain at the height of the Christmas rush. At the first shop, we bought a door security chain. A dead giveaway, I would have thought, but no one seemed suspicious. Outside in the car, Julie filled in a form on the transaction — which had been faultless — complete with a detailed description of the assistant. I hadn't even noticed the colour of her hair, let alone her eyes. Waiting in the inevitable car park queue — an occupational hazard — Julie recalled the day she and a male colleague used a spot of amateur acting to nail a shop assistant who had been cheating on the side.

They claimed they couldn't afford the bedroom furniture they had been looking at — and he offered to sell it to them for half-price, if they

would slip him the money in the car park.

Fuelled by coffee and a bun from a nearby snack bar, we mooched around the gardening section of the next shop for a while before settling on a Bypass Pruner at £5.75. The assistant rang up £3.75, hesitated, then rang up the extra £3. It could simply have been a mistake, or he could have been planning to pocket the difference. There was no evidence either way.

After the third shop — and another two hours on the road — we called it a day. Like all security measures, test-shopping has a limited life. But, as Lady Phillips, director of the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops, says: "Anything that will help cut down losses has to be applauded, for it is the honest customer who has to pay the price. Crime prevention is everybody's business."

Sally Dugan

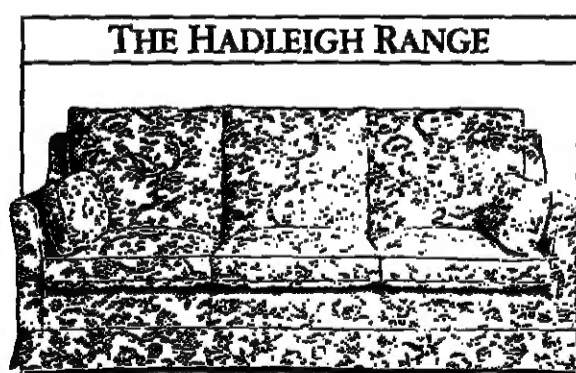
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FRIDAY

Medical Briefing: How reliable are smear tests?



Supper at the Cordon Bleu

The Spring Programme of Tuesday Evening Demonstrations with light fork supper at the Cordon Bleu commences on 20th January.

Each demonstration covers approx. 5 exciting recipes suitable for seasonal entertaining of family, friends and business colleagues.

A light supper is served from 6-6.30 p.m. followed by the demonstration lasting approx. 1½ hours. Ticket price £8.00 inc. supper, recipes, free raffle of cooked dishes.

For more details and a programme please contact: The Cordon Bleu Cookery School, 114 Marylebone Lane, London W1. Telephone: 01-955 3393.

And in the fashionable corner ...

Goodbye aerobics, hello boxing! The latest fitness fad for women has eager New Yorkers flocking to the famous Gleason's gym for lessons, which combine fast footwork with self-defence skills — likely to come in quite handy on the streets of Manhattan. Ten two-hour lessons cost \$150 (about £100) — and then watch out, Mike Tyson ...

PMTalk

Many women have found that GPs can be distressingly blasé about pre-menstrual syndrome, blithely scribbling out yet another prescription when alternative advice (on food, exercise, and so on) could be equally appropriate. The Pre-menstrual Tension Advisory Service has just published an authoritative pamphlet — price £1 (including p&p) — which they'd like PMS sufferers to pass on to doctors, nurses and community health workers, alerting them to recent findings on ways of treating the syndrome without drugs or hormones. It's available from PO Box 268, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1RW. They also run a helpline service for sufferers on (0273) 771366.

BRIEFLY
A round-up of news, views and information



Quote me ...

"As a female politician I cannot embrace people or ruffle their hair like my father and brother used to do. Such actions often say more than words, but this camaraderie can only exist man to man." — Benazir Bhutto.

Old news

New for 1987 is Celebrating Age, a year-long campaign designed to make us re-think our image of retirement and

old age — of particular interest to women as they comprise nearly two-thirds of pensioners. Age Concern is co-ordinating the year's events, which include an essay competition on the joys of being older for budding writers over 60. A thousand words, please, to Canon Michael Butler, 30 Bigwood Avenue, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1FG. Winning entries will be published in a booklet, proving once again that it's never too late to start a new career.

Small mercy

Children as young as four years old can be taught how to deal with emergencies and minor accidents thanks to Susan Foster and Ward Gardner's new book *First Aid*, a down-to-earth guide which uses comic-strips to help small children understand what to do when someone is unconscious, has a fall, suffers a burn or is involved in other everyday mishaps. Published by Piccolo, price £1.95 from bookshops everywhere, it might even prove a lifesaver.

Josephine Fairley

THE TIMES DIARY

Designer trouble

Sir Terence Conran's trusteeship of the Victoria and Albert Museum has landed him in controversy. The museum has just awarded a design consultancy to Sir Terence's own company, Conran Design, to help set up V & A Enterprises. The money-spinning scheme to market the museum's collection of designs and artefacts aims, in the words of the director, Sir Roy Strong, to make the museum "the Laura Ashley of the 1990s". Denis Sutton, editor of the art magazine *Apollon*, now tells me he thinks Conran should resign from the board of trustees because of the conflict of interests. Sir Terence, however, sees no problem. "The board of trustees appointed Conran Design - I don't think I was even at the meeting," he explains. "Frankly the sums involved are so microscopic that Conran Design is doing V & A Enterprises a favour."

In common

Not content with promoting their own tongue-twisting native language, the Welsh, under the auspices of their tourist board, have taken up the banner of this century's most hopeless linguistic cause. Potential visitors will soon be able to read about the valleys in brochures written entirely in Esperanto.

Iron maiden

Another small step for a blue stocking: this Thursday, for the first time, a woman will play in the President's Putter, the mid-winter golfing ritual for Oxford and Cambridge golfing blues. Fiona Macdonald, a geography undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge, will be among the 150 teeing off in the four-day match play tournament at Rye in Sussex. The chaps are making no concessions: Fiona, who earned her blue last year, will play off the men's tees. Not that that should worry her: her handicap is an impressive one under par.

● A final word on misplaced books. A reader tells of a friend who, wishing to check some point of aeronautics, asked in his library for books about Metropolitan Vickers. He was handed *Crockford's Clerical Directory*.

Vacant still

Last September I noted Brent Council's difficulties in finding a director of education. Now that the New Year has arrived, I hear that the problem is no nearer solution. Six applicants for the post were turned down last week, and the council is - yet again - to re-advertise. This means that the job has been unfilled since Adrian Parsons, alleging political interference, resigned last May. The deputy directorship is also vacant, so responsibility for Brent education falls on the shoulders of the borough's chief executive, Charles Wood. There must be someone out there of sufficient worth who would like to work for the nation's most progressive educationalists - the masterminds behind the Maureen McGoldrick case - mustn't there?

BARRY FANTONI



"You don't think we'll be mistaken for Lord Scraman's housewife?"

Broad sweep

Judge Alexander Lauriston is being brought to book by Test Valley Borough Council in Hampshire for painting parts of the red brick facade of his listed early Victorian home without permission. Planners are "concerned" that his handiwork has changed the character of a "particularly prominent building" in Upper Clatford. Lauriston says he did not realize consent was required. Councilors will consider his application for retrospective permission to retain the lick of creamy paint tomorrow. I hope they take into mitigation that, in *Who's Who*, His Honour gives his hobby as painting.

Cross purposes

The 30-month strike by ten Dublin shop assistants that led to the Irish government's ban on South African food imports is degenerating into farce. After the ban, the strikers returned to work at Dunnes Stores on Monday, only to walk out again when asked to sign a commitment to handle all goods in future. Yesterday they produced what they claimed was a coded order from Dunnes to which South African supplies which began "Dear Sister". In fact the letter was to an 88-year-old nun, Sister Atracta, who has spent 70 years teaching black children in South Africa. A Dunnes director, an old family friend, was donating the Stations of the Cross to her church.

PHS

Aids: time for a moral renaissance

by Cardinal Basil Hume

programme of information and education. Condoms and free needles for drug addicts will reduce but not remove the dangers; those at risk might be led to conclude that a potentially lethal life style can, with precautions, be made safe.

The fact to be faced is that all of us in society have to learn to live according to a renewed set of values. That will not be easy. How can any appeal for faithfulness and sexual restraint be heeded when there is on all sides explicit encouragement to promiscuous behaviour and frequent ridicule of moral values? Society is in moral disarray, for which we must all take our share of blame. Sexual permissiveness reflects a general decline of values.

Some might question whether any consensus on values is possible in a society which has so lost touch with its cultural, religious and spiritual roots. None the less I am convinced that there are untapped reserves of goodness and idealism in many individuals and communities. Laying the foundations for a new consensus will be prolonged, arduous and quite often hotly contested.

The search for a better way, the endeavour to reconstruct society's attitudes and values will, of necessity, take many forms. Together we must reflect on the consequences of our common humanity, the needs and longings of the human heart. We can learn too from history, while not idealizing the past. There can be no question, even if it were possible, of attempting to turn back the clock. The situation we confront demands of us a new response.

The Christian churches have an obvious part to play in this fundamental rethinking. So too have the world religions now represented in our country. The

Judeo-Christian heritage of moral values still has much to offer contemporary society. We can learn much also from the traditions of asceticism and self-discipline prized by Islam and the great religions of the East. Reconstruction demands serious dialogue. People, whether religious or not, can surely find common ground and shared ideals in face of the manifest dangers which threaten society.

Some are prepared to concede that such a transformation is required but believe it to be a long-term objective. It is necessary in the short term, they argue, to adopt the measures advocated in the present campaign of public education on Aids. The Roman Catholic Church in this country is being urged to modify its opposition to the use of condoms and its condemnation of sexual activity outside marriage, at least in the case of stable relationships. There are, however, serious matters of principle which the Church is not at liberty to ignore.

Roman Catholic teaching maintains that human love is a precious gift, a sharing in the life and love of God himself. Unselfish love between persons is itself a way to God. It enriches the human personality. In married love a couple come together in a lifelong, life-giving union in which they give themselves totally and exclusively to each other. To be fully human and self-giving, that love has to remain open to the possibility of new life. It provides the stability and affection necessary for the nurturing and development of the growing child. For all these reasons, the full sexual expression of love is reserved for husband and wife within marriage.

The Roman Catholic Church, therefore, cannot be expected to lend support to any measures which tacitly accept, even if they do not encourage, sexual activity outside marriage. To do so would be inconsistent. It would weaken our primary witness to the Christian vision of human love and marriage. Nor do we accept that for the unmarried the choice lies solely between condoms and infection. There is a third course of action: refusal to engage in extra-marital sexual activity. Such self-discipline is not emotionally destructive, but can be a positive affirmation of a radical ideal, demanding but not impossible.

The Roman Catholic Church is committed to the cause of marriage and family life. It is a sad reflection on present values that no political party offers a coherent and comprehensive policy to sustain and uphold family life. Here there is much common ground to be explored. It is essential to enhance the quality of individual and family life.

A radical change in popular attitudes is possible, indeed necessary. Many in recent years have become convinced of the need to embrace a simpler, healthier lifestyle in order to enjoy a fuller, longer life. We are already changing deep-rooted habits in eating, drinking, smoking, exercise. How much greater is the necessity to rediscover the joy of faithful love and lasting marriage. It calls for self-discipline, restraint and a new awareness. Such a profound change in society also needs a comprehensive campaign of public education and persuasion.

The Aids crisis presents a watershed for contemporary society. It is much more than a matter of sexual morality. Shared moral values derive from an accepted understanding of society. Fear may well induce some to modify their sexual behaviour. That is not enough, however, to achieve that radical renewal of society which is so clearly needed. The necessary steps should be taken, I would suggest, in an atmosphere of calm and trust and in a spirit of dialogue and hope. There is much to be done in the home, in schools and in every part of our life and work together. Parents, teachers, clergy, communicators, those in public and political life, all have shared responsibility to discover new hope and a better way.

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Andrew Gimson

Getting away from them all

"There were 500 of us on this deserted beach... a postman once told me after returning from Corfu. The tour operator took us to this unspoiled bit on the other side of the island and laid on a barbecue."

Mass tourism is easily mocked: how absurd to call the beach "deserted" when there were 500 people on it. Yet we read very few attacks on tourism in the press. This is partly because newspapers want to attract advertising from the holiday companies. It is that and, especially at this time of year, when many people book their summer holidays, a plethora of articles appears about the joys of tourism. But it is mainly because to attack mass tourism looks undemocratic. How intolerable it would be to deny to the mass of people what the few have for long had the chance to enjoy, including the beaches of Corfu.

So instead of admitting that there is a very strong case to be made against mass tourism, we simply try to avoid it. We do not go to places which are touristy. Like my postman, we prefer places which are deserted, or as near deserted as possible. The best thing we can report of a place is that there were no tourists about. "We went to this little village fifteen miles inland where Smith-Millicent, the famous traveller, has retired. He had us up for drinks. Have you read his books? Unfortunately the Germans have just found out about him - they're starting to arrive in droves. I'll with copies of Smith-Millicent's *The Unknown Hellas* in their rockeries. But we still managed to get away from them."

By "we" I mean "we ivory tourists". Our characteristic is to cut ourselves off on Ivory Tours from the so-called mass tourists. We would no more go on their kinds of holidays than we would choose to live in their kinds of houses or send our children to their kinds of schools. These things are all right for others, but not for us. Not only can they not afford, they probably do not know better.

But not everyone can be an ivory tourist, any more than everyone can have a mansion in Hampstead, or a cottage in the Lakes, or indeed a seat in the House of Lords. In such cases, there are only two choices: that some should have these things, or none. When everyone has them, they vanish, or cease to be worth having. One year Turkish Armenia is a select destination, the next it has been invaded by the masses, who greatly change Turkish Armenia as much as Spain, say, has already changed.

The ivory tourists are driven to desperate measures. Ivory tours are made to more and more remote spots. Just before Christmas, a journalist wrote to me about an expedition to the Sahara Desert on which he was going. The trip is the "inaugural" of a new holiday travel firm. "I'll be one of seven passengers

and two crew sleeping in tents and travelling in a specialist Mercedes Unimog, which has 22 gears. These will enable our vehicle to go to places where others cannot. It will carry all the food we'll need, and a barbecue is planned for Christmas Day. These will also be a fridge and nearly 100 gallons of water. We must each drink at least six pints a day, so there may not be much regular washing of clothes."

But even such frantic exercises as drinking six pints of water daily and wearing dirty clothes will not separate you from the mass tourists for long. Soon they will be all over the Sahara. They already saturate places one would rather go, such as Venice. Even St Mark's Cathedral there is in a four-lane-long queue. These do not make this place into a snack-bar and garbage heap, thank you."

On a rainy day last November I found a "small minority" ignoring this sign, resting, so to speak, on the disruption of football matches. But the main trouble was the huge majority of bored people blocking the view while they examined the work of M. Michel.

To many, drawn from every class of society, and including many who regard themselves as ivory tourists, it brings no pleasure beyond that of a task finished when the last of these cars has been "done" and they may turn wearily towards their hotel. Brave spirits like Philip Larkin, when they do not wish to travel, are not afraid to say so: "I wouldn't mind seeing China if I could come back the same day. I have been abroad. Generally speaking, the further one gets from home, the greater the misery."

But most of us feel with Dr Johnson. "A man who has not been in Italy, is always conscious of an inferiority from his not having seen what it is expected a man should see. The grand object of travelling is to see the shores of the Mediterranean. All our religion, almost all our law, almost all our arts, almost all that sets us above savages, has come to us from the Mediterranean."

So northern people go on pilgrimage to the Mediterranean. The former savages arrive like an army of occupation, to enjoy the sun and gaze at the remains of the civilization from which their own sprang. They bring much money. They are officially encouraged. But although they may be, on the average, no more Philistine than their predecessors, they are so much more numerous that they are bound to be incomparably more destructive.

Countries which take many lovers are quickly ruined. My postman says that Corfu is not what it was. This year he is going to Rhodes. Over over government would like to see more tourists as possible to come to England. The more they come, the more jobs there will be selling hamburgers and souvenirs, but the less England will be. The author is deputy editor of *The Spectator*.

moreover... Miles Kingston

The harrow and tractor match

Farmers are not like the rest of us. When their machines or vehicles break down they don't get them mended or replaced in the normal way; they put them in their yard or even leave them out in the field, making a mental note to get them repaired some time. But they never get round to it, which is why most farmyards look like badly maintained museums of farm machinery, or forgotten carparks.

My cousin Laurence, a Scottish farmer, noticed this long ago. He also noticed that when retiring farmers have a selling-up sale, which in Scotland is called a roup or disengagement sale, other farmers very often come along to put their stuff up for auction as well. So, as cousin Laurence told me at Hogmanay over a small dram of blended barley produce, he decided that something should be done about this treasury of secondhand but far from useless farm machinery. The trouble was that a farmer with something to get rid of, or in need of something, had no idea how to find a buyer or seller. This is where Laurence's bright idea came in.

"It's called Crumbs - Compensated Register of Used Machinery. Buyers and Sellers," he explained. "Most of the initial effort went into devising a catchy name, then I started to compile a list on my computer of all the machines offered for sale by my neighbours."

One reason such a scheme is needed is that spare parts for farm machinery are very expensive, and it's often cheaper to buy an entire secondhand machine just for one part from it than to buy the part alone, first-hand. Another reason for the scheme is to clear up the farmyards of Britain and get rid of all that rusting machinery. Another reason is not to make cousin Laurence rich, as he appears to be charging no commission at all. I asked him, over a small tot of Glen Livestock malt, how the scheme was going so far.

"Pretty slowly," he said. "This is partly because I've only just started it and also because we British may be pretty good at thinking up great ideas, but we are not so good at getting them accepted. Think of the hoversack. Think of wave energy. Think another glass of malt would go down well!"

It is certainly true that cousin Laurence has always been well ahead of current thinking in the agricultural field. He was the first person, as far as I know, to develop the golden rule of farming: study carefully what the government recommends and then do the exact opposite. Asked him if he still held to that.

"No, I don't," he said. "So you agree with the government now, do you?" "Certainly not," he said, shocked. "No, the position now is that the government appears to have no discernible farming policy at all, so it's impossible to do the opposite. The best one can do is find out what most of the neighbours are doing and then do the opposite of that."

And what are most of your neighbours doing? "Failing to register for Crumbs."

Cousin Laurence stared deeply into a new glass of Glen Livestock malt, then spoke as if he had peered into a crystal ball. "I will tell you the truth about farming in Britain. So few of us are left living on the land that agriculture is formed largely by those living in suburbia. And what suburban man wants is a lovely clean landscape full of bonny coys and great producing healthy foods with none of those nasty things that lead to heart attacks. Unfortunately, it's a contradiction in terms. Every time we plant the bright yellow rape seed plants that produce the healthy oil, suburban man screams that it's ruining the landscape. Every time we spread lovely organic slurry on the fields, suburban man moans a demo against the smell. Suburban man wants a deodorized countryside. But he can't have it. He despised his glass."

"And another thing, British farming is now so efficient and productive that every time we have a good harvest we create more food mountains and more trouble for ourselves. Do you know what would be the best thing for British farming? I'll tell you. Two or three really bad years - a row. Persepolis four."

I lifted my glass to him and refilled it, though I didn't really understand what he meant. Then, cousin Laurence has always been ahead of his time.

Paul Valley on the need for more western help to rebuild Cambodia

Eight years ago today the Vietnamese army entered Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, and ended one of the most brutal regimes of this century.

The atrocities of Pol Pot bore comparison with those of Hitler's Germany. In three years of fanatical socialism as much as one quarter of the country's population is now thought to have perished. Some half million were butchered in the horrific killing fields but many more died of the disease and starvation which was the deliberate legacy of the Khmer Rouge's attempt to return its people to the countryside and to a world untainted by modern medicine, education or technology.

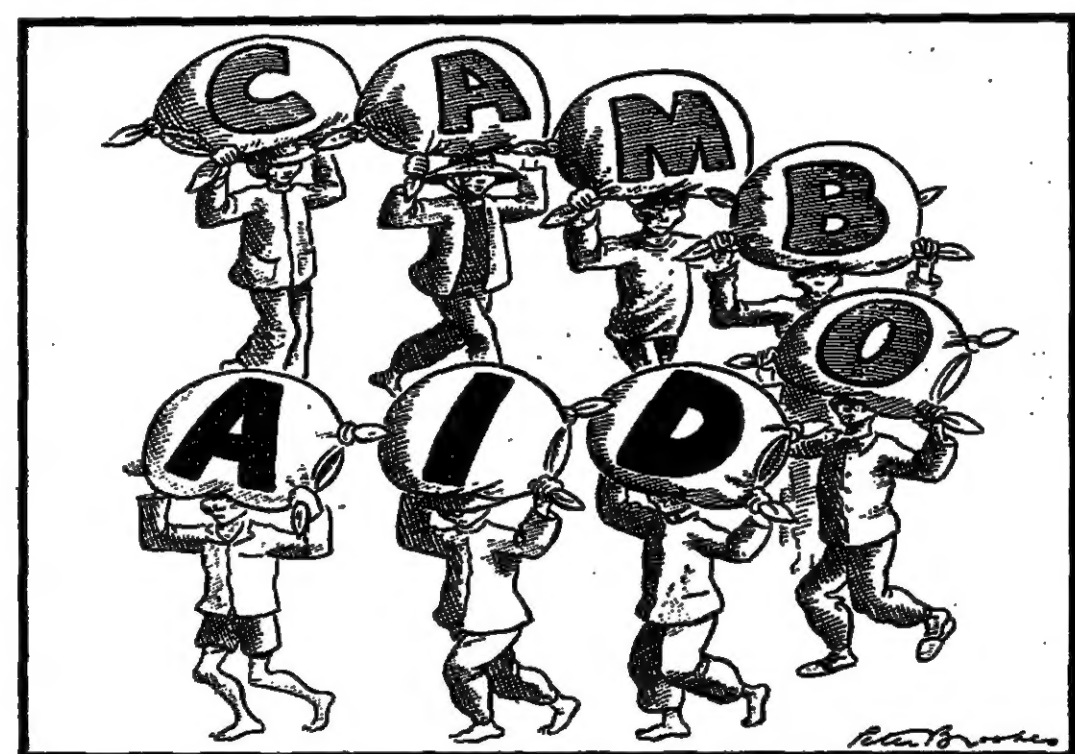
The result, as the invading army revealed to international scrutiny, was that more than half this fertile landscape lay uncultivated and the population was devastated by a man-made famine of unprecedented proportions. The world responded with a flood of aid, on a scale which has since been surpassed only by that to Ethiopia. And yet eight years later, according to a recent high-level mission of assessment by Oxfam, life is not much better for the hapless Cambodians.

"People are just camped out amid the ruins of the wrecked capital," says Paddy Coulter, Oxfam's director of information, who clearly regards the sight as a metaphor for the national condition. He tells of levels of infant mortality unparalleled in Asia and of rates of child malnutrition similar to those in Ethiopia. Agriculture has not attained pre-war production levels and the country is still not self-sufficient in rice, the staple food. The half million people in Phnom Penh still use a water supply contaminated with raw sewage.

"Everywhere we were bombarded with requests for assistance - for spare parts for their broken down Leyland lorries, for replacement equipment from Mackies in Belfast for the jute factories, for spares for the water pumps which are crucial for getting a dry season crop, for large-scale technical assistance to build roads, bridges, hospitals - the type of aid the British government is normally so keen on giving. Yet there is not one penny of official British money going into the country, and it is the only one in the world that does not have a United Nations development programme."

The harsh fact is that the people of Cambodia live on an ideological faultline along which the power plates of China, the Soviet Union, the US and the countries of the EEC all grind with stony indifference. In a world where aid is a function of political and strategic interests, everyone at the moment can afford to take a hard line on Cambodia.

Because the current Heng Samrin government in Phnom Penh is maintained by a foreign army of occupation, the People's Republic of Kampuchea is not recognized by most countries and, consequently, it does not have a place at the United Nations. Instead the national seat is occupied by the representative of Democratic Kampuchea, a coalition of anti-government guerrillas led by the former head of state, Prince Sihanouk, but whose principal strength comes from the 30,000 rump of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. The coalition controls only the camps just across the frontier in Thailand which contain some 250,000 Cambodian refugees, but



Power politics —so this nation suffers

it was to this official body that the entirety of Britain's £1.3 million aid went last year.

The British government has no illusions about the nature of the coalition which "with the greatest reluctance" it supports at the UN.

This year members of the Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs visited the region and concluded that the camps were "in effect, rear base camps for support for the Khmer Rouge" and asked if the government was happy that UN resources were partly devoted to feeding the estimated 40,000 guerrillas. The Foreign Office acknowledged its scepticism at the Khmer Rouge's claims that it had changed either its philosophy (it says it is now pro-capitalist) or its techniques. Aid workers in the region confirm that inhabitants of the camps are terrorized by groups of thugs headed by Son Sen, who was in charge of Pol Pot's murderous security apparatus.

The reality is that, in a power struggle between the Soviet-backed Vietnamese and the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, the West chooses the position most likely to maintain stability along the Sino-Soviet flank. Aid from the major Western donors fell from \$305 million in 1974 to \$0.2 million in 1980. The consequence for the Cambodian people is that recovery from the horrors of the Pol Pot era is painfully slow.

"There is some progress but the situation is very bad," said one senior international aid worker. "The country still suffers badly from the effects of the American bombing." (During the Vietnam war US planes dropped 750 per cent more explosive on Cambodia than was dropped on Britain throughout the Second World War). The roads are some of the worst in the world. The Pol Pot regime destroyed the technical infrastructure; only 43 doctors, ten agronomists and three architects survived the massacres. Today there are only about 300 tech-

nocrats who run the country. They are very overworked. They have established new training programmes but, in agriculture, for example, the first students will not graduate until 1990.

The limited progress is slowed still further by the fact that first priority for resources is given to the war against the guerrillas. The coalition forces lost control of most territory during the 1984/85 campaign by the Vietnamese army but one of their leaders says their hit-and-run tactics could tie down 200,000 Vietnamese troops.

There is an irony in this, for the Vietnamese have declared their intention of withdrawing by 1990 and privately say that they would like to get out sooner. International observers say there is evidence of that.

One high-ranking westerner in Phnom Penh told me: "They are currently constructing a kind of Maginot Line along the border, clearing the bush and erecting fortifications. They are educating a local communist elite and have introduced conscription in an attempt to build an indigenous army. Though they refuse to deal with what they call the Pol Pot clique they have recently agreed to talk to Sihanouk, which is a substantial concession. It all points to a desire to get out."

Security was poor inside Cambodia during 1982 and again at the beginning of 1985 as the guerrillas - though not getting extra money from Peking - set out to prove that they could stay active with longer supply lines despite the new border fortifications. But in recent months aid officials say that they have been able to move freely, though Soviet aid workers remain cautious after being selected as particular targets.

Soviet aid to Cambodia is thought to run at some \$100 million a year, concentrated on roads, textiles and other major

projects which in many countries would be financed by the World Bank. East Germany, the second biggest foreign donor, is putting about \$5m annually into hospitals and the telephone system. The rest of the aid comes from voluntary agencies such as Oxfam, which finds itself engaged in major projects normally beyond its resources - among them decontaminating the capital's water system and refurbishing a jute sack factory.

"There are some real success stories," said Bjorn Oldaus, until recently the Phnom Penh representative of Unicef, the UN children's fund, whose more flexible mandate allowed it to work under the non-recognized government. "The restoration of education has been remarkable. People wanted primary schools and were prepared to build them themselves. So Unicef provided 60 per cent of the materials. Fifty thousand teachers have been trained in five years. There has also been great progress in basic health care, with 1,400 health centres established and 8,000 people trained."

But progress has been greatly slowed by the lack of western technology and it was as if the clock stopped in 1973. The country missed the green revolution and developments in primary health care like immunization and oral rehydration therapy. A comparatively small amount of money - say \$2 million - could bring about a tremendous improvement in children's health."

In agriculture, a bad harvest in 1984 led to a sharp increase in malnutrition, and although the 1985 harvest was good (and the signs are that this year's has been satisfactory) the socialist policy of forcing farmers to sell a proportion of their grain to the state at low prices seems to be having some disincentive effect.

"That could be changed if the West were to exert influence through giving aid," said one senior relief worker. "This is a very pragmatic government. Though it may teach its politics in Vietnamese and its agriculture in French, the West still has the chance to strike a deal to train the next generation of technocrats and educate them in our ways. The Cambodians are open to that. But if we persist in our policy of isolation much longer that chance could be gone for ever."



THE JUDGEMENT OF PARIS

There was, for people in this country, an element of *deja vu* about the Paris street scene yesterday. Train strikes, power strikes, gas strikes, dock strikes and even a walk-out on the Metro, evoked long memories of 1978-79 when the so-called Winter of Discontent stopped Britain in its tracks and plunged areas into darkness. Suddenly the British illness seemed contagious.

Nor is it just the streets which looked familiar. The present wave of discontent began in mid-December with a rail dispute which quickly engulfed the tourist trade and freight. The Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac, after promising "no surrender", promptly surrendered — at least on the crucial issue of carter structure. By promising to suspend a scheme to introduce promotion by merit on the railways (as opposed to promotion by age), the Chirac government thought no doubt to extract the main fuse from the argument. It was a miscalculation.

Instead the railwaymen switched to concentrate their energies on their other much more general complaint — pay. Here they were able to find common cause with other public sector workers aggrieved by government policies on pay restraint. Having successfully brought inflation down to not much more than two per cent, the government has insisted on a pay ceiling of two per cent this year, or one per cent more in return for increased productivity. The struggle against unemploy-

ment should be his top priority, as M. Chirac put it yesterday after the Cabinet's crisis meeting. There would, he said, be no surrender.

But will anyone believe him this time? It is hard not to have some sympathy with him over his present predicament. His order of priorities must be right. But he is having to battle his way through it with only equivocal support from President Mitterrand, who must see political advantage in his right-wing prime minister's discomfiture.

On the other hand, it is M. Chirac's own fault that he has manoeuvred himself and his government into a corner. Since being elected on a platform of principle and toughness, M. Chirac has displayed a pragmatism bordering on expediency. France's Western allies might point out that the country's foreign policy has been fashioned in this way for many years. But under M. Chirac, it was hoped, things might be different. In the event, policy on French hostages, his capitalisation to the students over education reform and, last month, over the creation of a railways meritocracy, have reawakened doubts over his political steadfastness.

This fumbling, uncertain record has obvious implications for the present dispute. He cannot now afford to give way. Not only would this jeopardise his wage and prices strategy — a fundamental part of his conservative government's economic programme, but next year will

feature the French presidential elections in which M. Chirac was hoping to play a part as the champion of the right. He is not without rivals for this role — not with Raymond Barre in the wings. For the Prime Minister to give ground once more in the face of a challenge to his own authority, could do irreparable damage.

Unfortunately for him it is an uncomfortable battle-ground on which to make his stand. Paris commuters yesterday were said to be displaying what we on this side of the Channel might call the Dunkirk spirit. But if Communist-led unions persist in their anti-government campaign, would the same tired, cold commuters feel quite as resilient in March?

Moreover, he is dealing with the railways which are something of a growth industry in France. They are not the kind of dying state enterprise which the government could allow to go to the wall. The situation which confronts him is therefore one which at some stage might call out for compromise. M. Chirac's dilemma is that he is badly placed to bargain — having gambled all his chips away already.

Commentators have been busily comparing the French prime minister with Mr. Callaghan who endured the Winter of Discontent in Britain eight years ago — and lost the next election as reward. But perhaps the comparison should be with Mr. Heath? Neither spectre should provide much cause for comfort now in Paris.

VIOLENCE AT HOME

Concern is rightly growing about domestic violence. The homicide figures (for 1985) show that of a total of 563 homicides, the victim in 422 cases was acquainted with the offender (in or out of the family) and of this figure, 113 offenders were either present or former cohabitants or spouses. And while the figure for domestic homicides has not increased in recent years, there is a general impression, even if we cannot put an official figure on it, that lesser acts of domestic violence have risen steadily. Yet there are still not enough referees to cope with the number of women and their children who are in need of protection.

Domestic violence comes in various guises. There is straightforward brutality by a partner who is more generally vicious, and there is the impulsive violence that sometimes arises out of the emotional tension between two people living together. Impulsive violence may not recur and the victim of it may resist outside intervention. In any single incident, however, the police or social workers may not be easily able to distinguish between the two brands of violence — and from that terrible tragedies can spring.

A further complication is that some active publicists in this field are anxious, for one reason or another, to puncture

the claims of family life — which they regard as a source of crimes from wife-battering to child abuse. Thus a first reaction to any suggestion that children need greater protection outside the home is often the assertion that they are most vulnerable within it. Abusing paper on "Police Responses to Domestic Violence", published recently by the London Strategic Policy Unit's Police Monitoring Group, offers interesting insights into how this problem is sometimes discussed.

It is right where it points to the limited protection afforded by the power of injunction to prevent a man from attacking a woman and entering her home. It is right to say that there are cases in which the police might take preventive action when they do not. It quotes one appalling case of a woman who was murdered after the police failed to take adequate notice of a warning letter from her solicitor, who could not apply for an injunction because the man's address was unknown.

Yet the briefing paper also observes, for instance, that whereas most women's fear of crime is "usually presented as fear of attack by an unknown man in the street", this "masks the reality that women are more likely to be attacked by a man they know in their own home."

This is highly misleading. A small minority of women face a high degree of risk of domestic violence. This compares to most women who, safe at home, face the danger of attack by an unknown assailant. Another example of dubious statistics is to project 2,500 instances of domestic violence in the highly atypical borough of Islington to give a figure of around three-quarters of a million for the whole capital.

Nor does it make sense to criticise the police both for their "cult of masculinity" and for their preference for mediation and reconciliation. Where the paper is right is in criticising judges who appear to dismiss the seriousness of domestic attacks on women.

Fortunately, the judiciary seems to be responding to public concern on this matter. Last month, the Recorder of London rightly sentenced to life, with a recommended minimum of 25 years, a man guilty of breaking into a battered wife's refuge and killing his wife in front of their children. The Court of Appeal also dismissed the appeal of a man accused of causing his wife grievous bodily harm with the message that it is no mitigation of a serious assault that it had occurred in a domestic scene.

All that the law can do to deter must be done.

TRILLION DOLLAR MAN

President Reagan's one trillion (or million million) dollar budget is of wider significance than its domestic implications for the US economy and the President's political standing. America's trade imbalance with Japan and Germany is now the biggest single threat to the smooth expansion of world trade. Cutting the US budget deficit has an important contribution to make towards bringing world trade closer into balance.

There are two views on the measures required to deal with the US trade deficit. One is that the big fall in the dollar during the past two years will be sufficient of itself to bring the trade account back towards balance. The increased price competitiveness of US industry will in time cut imports and increase exports bringing trade closer to balance. The other is that exchange rate changes on their own will not be enough and that co-ordinated fiscal changes — deflationary in the US and inflationary in Germany and Japan — are also required.

The exchange rate purists are correct on a long view. Meanwhile, the risks of growing protectionism in the US and loss of confidence in the dollar, leading to an increase in interest rates, are high prices to pay. The adjustment to a more competitive dollar is

taking an uncomfortably long time as the huge November trade deficit bears out. Japanese industry has largely chosen to maintain volume and accept much reduced margins. And where it has retreated, other SE Asian exporters have stepped in.

Fiscal action would provide strong support for the effect of exchange rate changes. A smaller budget deficit in the US would reduce America's appetite for imports while the more expansionary policies which it is trying to persuade the German and Japanese governments to adopt would increase the demand for US exports.

This makes it important for the rest of the world that Congress should take the President's proposal to cut the budget deficit seriously, even if it does not agree every stage of the route. Mr Reagan's proposal is that the deficit should be cut from \$220.7 billion to \$173.2 billion in fiscal 1987 and again to \$107.8 billion next year, roughly in line with the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law which Congress itself passed.

Exactly how this should be achieved offers scope for plenty of argument — arguments which will be familiar to British ears as to those of voters in practically every other western democracy. The

3 per cent increase in defence spending (in real terms) which the President proposes will be resisted by the Democratic majority in Congress, but it is nevertheless the smallest increase he has sought since taking office. Likewise the cut in health and welfare programmes, including cuts in Medicaid and increases in Medicare premiums, will be highly controversial.

The President has made a sensible assault on farming subsidies which Europeans enslaved by the Common Agricultural Policy can only stare at in envy. Target prices are to be cut by 10 per cent a year to limit over-production, and a lower ceiling placed on the maximum subsidy any one farmer may receive.

The option of tax increases has predictably been eschewed. But income is to be raised from privatisation — whose proceeds are sensibly counted as revenue rather than negative expenditure. Oil fields, railroads and excess land and property are to be sold off and radio frequencies auctioned to the highest bidders.

There may be some ideas here for our own Government. But the main interest outside the US is that the deficit should be reduced. How it is done is a matter between Congress and the President.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Sloth' in weapons-buying system

From Mr Kenneth Warren, MP for Hastings and Rye (Conservative). Sir, When Mr George Younger announced the Nimrod AEW (airborne early warning) cancellation he stated that the Ministry of Defence would review its management systems "to ensure that such cost and time overruns do not happen in the future".

Since then, MOD sources have started a smoke-screen, saying that many of those responsible have been "retired, or been promoted". In the House, I had called for them to be "disciplined or discharged". I am confident the secretary of state will pursue his investigation because there are fundamental flaws in the structure of MOD.

Before entering Parliament I worked in GEC and so know many people on the Nimrod project. Whatever went wrong, I am deeply concerned that these engineers and managers should be found where HM Government is their customer, whereas they consistently and brilliantly succeed when the US Government is their customer.

At the sharp, leading edge of high technology it is hard to match the state of the art to the state of expectations. The US Department of Defense is a customer totally dedicated to success in partnership with its contractors. In the case of the MoD, to put it bluntly, you are trying to get a grip on a cat of 18,000 officers and Civil Servants who are individually splendid, but collectively not similarly motivated.

The Procurement Executive have a horrendous task to halt the ingenuity of staff who piled a total of 3,845 separate modifications onto the Nimrod radar. For many contractors, winning an HM Government contract is not the end of a contest, but the beginning. We lack a common mission between Government as customer and industry as contractor. We also lack a common language whereby politicians, Civil Servants and technologists can communicate.

Confrontation is bad for industry. It is not good for Government. It is jointly applauded by our competitors and our enemies. As non-interventionist as I am, I acknowledge an essential level where Government must act vigorously and creatively, as the biggest customer in the nation, to promote British industry. We are a nation teeming with

scientific and engineering talent. But we are not so rich as to be able to afford to squander a billion pounds of investment without banging heads harder together.

The advanced industrial nations — USA, Japan and West Germany — are scything away markets we should have no technical problems retaining. We have three million unemployed and an import bill for manufacturers of over £11 billion a year. This is a nonsense. By setting efficient purchasing standards Government could be the peace-maker for a resurgence of design and quality in everything it needs, from cars to computers.

State ownership is no solution. State motivation of the market is overdue. The Treasury has said in the past it can't be done as it is too difficult. I do not believe the Prime Minister need accept their sloth. Yours faithfully, KENNETH WARREN, House of Commons, December 31.

Lessons to learn

From Mrs Mary Harris. Sir, Nineteen eighty-six was a busy year. As the director of an education industry project in the shortage area of mathematics I was as active as I usually am, but took a certain amount of extra stick directed at teachers by industrialists.

During the Christmas break, as is the custom of most teachers, I prepared for next term. Some of my work had to be done in libraries and at opening time this morning I was at work in the library of the Commonwealth Institute. All my fellow visitors throughout the morning were teachers preparing work for their students.

Two of the things that enable me to maintain the pace I do in spite of my salary are my coffee machine and my dishwasher. Both have been out of action since days before Christmas because the firms concerned are unable to supply parts or service before, during, and for days after the long holiday.

Sir, may I suggest that we name 1987 Education Year, the year in which we notice what actually goes on in education and what actually goes on in industry? Yours faithfully, MARY HARRIS, 31 Princedale Road, W11, December 29.

Schools manifesto

From the Director of Education, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Sir, If your main article of December 29 is any guide, the Hillgate Group (Whose Schools? A Radical Manifesto) is like others of the same ilk, wrong on rhetoric and inductive at the expense of facts and rational argument.

In my own authority school timetables look very much like they did 10 years ago and what evidence exists suggests that standards have risen rather than the reverse. Moreover, it is not the loony left or wily-wacky liberals who have heralded the introduction of the new GCSE, different methods of assessment and experiential learning rather than the pillars of the establishment such as the CBI and the last Secretary of State, Sir Keith Joseph.

On the basis of my experience here in the north of England there is no widespread left-wing plot to subvert the curriculum and indoctrinate young people. The greatest safeguard in my authority against such dangers is the local borough council and not some rather vague Government-sponsored trust answerable to no one. There are enormous dangers in trying to legislate for the whole of the country on the basis of the activities of a small minority of

local education authorities, mainly in the London area.

What makes the present tide of abuse, fanned by ministers in the Department of Education and Science, hard to take is that so very few of the critics have any direct experience of local authority schools. Few, if any of them attended such schools and I suspect even fewer send their children to them.

I contrast that with the fact that the 10 most senior officers in my own department and the chairman and vice-chairman of the Rotherham Education Committee have between them had, or are currently having, over 30 children educated in our local schools. We have a very real vested as well as professional interest in seeing our schools flourish.

To try and undermine confidence in the public education system is no less an act of vandalism because it is done by those on the extreme right rather than the left of the political spectrum.

Yours faithfully, KEITH SNOWDEN, Director of Education, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Education Office, Norfolk House, Walker Place, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, December 31.

Not quite ship-shape

From Mr J. R. Evans

Sir, The outstanding performance of the New Zealand yacht in the America's Cup races so far has not been satisfactorily explained. Perhaps the one difference between it and the other boats, namely that its hull is built of glass fibre and theirs of aluminium, should be examined.

It is well known to aircraft designers that a relatively thin metal skin supported by formers (bulkheads) and stringers is liable to distortion of the skin panels bounded by the formers and stringers, and the distortion will change with the load of the structure. This departure from the perfect shape over a large area in contact with the water will disturb

the water in the boundary layer, causing increased drag or water resistance.

In contrast a glass fibre hull has a thicker skin and few internal structural members and will therefore be perfectly faired as manufactured, and will retain its correct shape when under load. Other things being equal, the glass fibre-hulled yacht will therefore be faster.

In the next America's Cup races we may expect that the hulls will all be built of glass fibre, or perhaps of aluminium sandwich construction. Yours sincerely, J. R. EVANS, Woodpeckers, Freshwater Lane, St Mawes, Cornwall.

Benefit for disabled

From the Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled.

Sir, I cannot let the letter from Mr A.A. Aston of the Royal National Institute for the Blind (December 30) pass without comment since it may mislead your readers about the Government's intentions towards disabled people in the social security reforms from April, 1988.

We now have updated estimates of the number of severely disabled people living independently in the community and I have set out revised proposals to assist them which I will discuss with organisations representing disabled people (including the RNIB) in January.

Under the new proposals an estimated 7,000 people would receive the severe disability premium, to be set at the same rate as invalid care allowance — currently

£23.25 a week. On this basis, the premium will cost about £8 million a year compared with £1 million a year spent on the domestic assistance addition it is designed to replace, and which is received at present by about 3,000 people (90 per cent of whom receive amounts of £10 a week or less). That represents a substantial improvement for many severely disabled people.

Mr Aston also called on the Government to provide full protection to prevent disabled claimants from being left worse off than they are under existing benefit arrangements. We have repeatedly made clear that transitional arrangements will ensure that everyone whose weekly entitlement under the Income Support scheme turns out to be less than their weekly income under the supplementary benefit scheme at April, 1988 will continue to receive the higher amount. This

Where the public fails the NHS

From Mr D. L. Crosby. Sir, Does the NHS get the support it deserves from the great British public? I believe that there are at least three areas in which it does not.

First, the frequency with which patients fail to keep arranged appointments, both as outpatients and for admission to hospital. Many patients on long waiting lists have deferred their admission on frequent occasions. This certainly adds to the difficulties of running hospitals efficiently.

Second, vandalism and theft are widespread in our hospitals. Basic materials and all manner of equipment disappear in considerable quantities. Security is expensive and difficult to achieve if open access for patients and their visitors is to be maintained. It is hard to estimate the loss of money which occurs and is thereby diverted from patient care.

Third, so much of the work of the medical profession is now preoccupied with the treatment of self-inflicted diseases involving tobacco, alcohol and drugs, as well as obesity and AIDS; it might well be possible to cope with non-preventable naturally occurring disease quite easily with existing resources were it not for these added problems.

I believe that the public should be made more aware — over and above its tax contributions — of its potential contribution to a successful National Health Service.

D. L. CROSBY, (Consultant Surgeon), University Hospital of Wales, Heath Park, Cardiff, December 17.

Macmillan succession

From Sir Brian Ransford and others.

Sir, As members of the Government Whip's Office in October, 1983, we renege Mr Humphrey Berkeley's contention in his letter to you of January 5 regarding the election of a party leader.

We were requested by the Chief Whip to get in touch with Conservative members to ask for their views on the leadership. It was left entirely to us, individually, to do this, in any way we thought fit. We were certainly not instructed to use the hypothetical question such as Mr Berkeley suggests.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN RANSFORD, ROBIN CHICHESTER-CLARK, MICHAEL HAMILTON, JOHN HILL, FRANK PEARSON, FRANCIS PYM, Lamb House, Rye, East Sussex, January 6.

The evil that men do

From Dr W. J. Abel

Sir, Dr Beckerman (feature, December 17) is perfectly right to draw attention to a group of people who are not wholly responsible for their behaviour.

The late Professor Sir David Henderson, who had an unrivalled experience in the medical-legal field pointed out, and those of us who have had experience in this field of forensic psychiatry will concur, that criminal conduct of an aggressive, self-assertive state with sadistic behaviour is a primitive response and that practically all criminals have given evidence of their uncontrolled instincts before the age of 18.

We accept that children are born with physical defects; is it so strange to accept that many may have defects in their central nervous systems? We know far more now about genetic inheritance.

I see no problem as a Christian in viewing people like Myra Hindley as conforming to the psychopathic state, in need of prolonged care, being defective in her capacity to live a normal life; the odds are weighed against her by reason of her make-up.

It is unhappily true that the majority of these unfortunate people are resistant to any treatment in this world. The Christian Church maintains that this world is not the end; it is surely right for us to believe that our second pilgrimage hereafter is one to wholeness and that that is a merciful Father's purpose for us in all. There are few of us who are not in need of healing.

Yours faithfully, W. J. ABEL, 9 Birkdale, Newmarket Road, Norwich, Norfolk, December 29.

applies to all claimants whether disabled or not. Moreover, for the very small number who receive extensive help by way of the domestic assistance addition and who may need such protection, the amount will be uprated thereafter to maintain its value.

The Government policy remains to direct more resources to disabled people. The illustrative figures in the new Income Support scheme from April, 1988, show that there will be an increase of over £50 million a year in weekly support. This is in addition to a real increase in spending on the sick and disabled of around 30 per cent since 1979.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MAJOR, Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, SE1, December 31.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 7 1911

Concern about anarchism arose at this time from the Houndsditch murders in which two policemen were shot and killed. The sequel was the siege of a house in Sidney Street, Stepney, to which a detachment of the Scots Guards was called. The building was eventually destroyed by fire and the bodies of two anarchists found.

"EXPROPRIATION" AND ANARCHISTS.

THE MOVEMENT IN LONDON.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The question whether the Houndsditch murders were or were not Anarchists is bound to give rise to much debate, in spite of the official assurances to the contrary.

It may be well to state the views of Anarchists themselves on the matter. "The different groups that are united in the International Federation do not approve of acts such as those of the Houndsditch murders," said one of the most influential Russian leaders. He added:

So far as we can judge, either from the names published or the photograph printed, they were certainly not members of our club in Jubilee-street. The police tell us that they attended our meetings. That may be so, and it is possible that they belonged to one of the Lettsick groups, which work independently, apparently preferring to keep themselves aloof from other Anarchists here. The Houndsditch act bears a strong resemblance to a number of "expropriations" which took place in Russia during the revolutionary movement, and which were afterwards condemned and discouraged by the Anarchists themselves. The murders were young, little more than boys, and it was usually young fellows who were caught up in the "expropriation" movement in Russia. It would not be at all surprising if these men had been to our club meetings or lectures, had come in contact with a Russian police agent provocateur there, and had been urged on by him to do what they did, in order to help rob us of our homes in the last country open to the political refugees. Similar work has been done by Russian police agents in Belgium, in Paris and elsewhere during the past few years, as we know. But Anarchists as a whole are now against private expropriation, for we realise the harm it has done.

THE ANARCHIST CLUBS.

A closer survey of Anarchism here may help to shed some light on the matter. As was told in a previous article the movement in London principally centres around two clubs, one in the East-end (temporarily closed) and one in the West. These clubs are the meeting place for several groups, mostly composed of foreign Jews, usually Russian Jewish tailors.

The distinctly foreign character of most of the groups has been a heavy handicap in attempting to attract the English working man. "Our position is often made difficult by the fact that we are foreigners," said Roeder, one of the leaders. From Leeds, where the growth of the tailoring trade has given the Anarchists a chance, the complaint comes that as a result of the group being Jewish, the English will not come in. Some four years ago it was officially stated that there were seven provincial Anarchist groups. The number is about the same now.

These are the orthodox Anarchists, treading their orthodox and regarding all others as mere careless revolutionists. They have no central governing organization, but in 1907 an international bureau was established to act as a centre of communication between the different groups. The bureau was established after a conference at Amsterdam. Its headquarters are in London, at Stepney-green.

What is the aim of these different bodies? They describe themselves as the revolutionary forces of militant federalism. They openly declare themselves Terrorists, and they have been behind most European upheavals, outside of Turkey, from the Paris Commune to today. They make no secret of the fact they regard the appeal to physical force as legitimate. To quote from their own official document, the "Resolutions passed at the Amsterdam Anarchist Congress, Amsterdam, 1907":

During revolutionary periods, such as the present one in Russia, for instance, terrorism — apart from its psychological character — serves a twofold purpose: it undermines the very foundations of tyranny and kindles in the timid the divine fire of revolt. Especially in this case where the terroristic activity is directed against the most brutal and hated agents of despotism.

"THE RIGHT OF REBELLION."

The same congress declared itself in favour of the right of rebellion on the part of the individual, as well as on that of the masses. The "right of rebellion on the part of the individual" covers whatever the individual pleases to do. The great majority of Anarchists are avowed atheists...

Best before?

From the Reverend Brian H. King

Sir, Today, the eighth day of Christmas, I visited my local branch of Marks and Spencer in search of a Christmas pudding. I was disappointed in not finding one and amazed to find hot cross buns on sale. Yours faithfully, BRIAN H. KING, St Elisabeth's Vicarage, 266 Victoria Drive, Eastbourne, East Sussex, January 2.

THE ARTS

Shelter sickness

Go down to Carrington House in Deptford and you will find some of London's 50,000 homeless. In its time this vast, twin-towered monument has housed brain-surgeons and journalists, squadron-leaders and lawyers. All have different reasons for their homelessness. Few need be ashamed of these reasons, yet none escapes the stigma that results from their situation. Talk to them and they seem too baffled to articulate their condition, too weak to mouth an effective protest.

TELEVISION

By contrast, New York - *The Quiet Catastrophe* (ITV) showed the gutsiness of London's equivalents in the Big Apple. Transmitted at the start of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, Peter Kossovsky's documentary for *First Tuesday* was like a cold magnifying glass pressed against the streets of Manhattan, where there are now more homeless than in the Great Depression. The city which once welcomed immigrants with outstretched arms has not proved so hospitable to its home-grown refugees.

"Ronald Reagan believes these people are here by choice," famed one-eyed, peroxide-haired volunteer worker, "and that they can pull themselves up by their bootstraps. But when you have no boots you can't pull yourself up." Not that the actual conditions of life were as squalid as in London (or, for that matter, Lima, where much of the population lives without a ready water-supply in rust-busting huts). The squalor lay in the contrast between the women surrounded by shopping-bags - which contained all her possessions - and the limousine collecting its passenger from Tiffany's.

For those who can brave the routine murder and theft, there are the city shelters - regimented rows of beds resembling a cemetery from the air. "This is it," said one mother (it is a family problem too), "this is my home." Or, in a metropolis where cheap flats cost \$1,500 per month, there are the makeshift squats on Lower East Side. Or, most depressing of all, the hotels around 42nd Street where Kathy Wilson cooks illegally in a room shared with her three children. She has lived here a year. If she lives here any longer "I'll go crazy, plain and simple." Halfway through the interview she has to stop and be sick.

Those who do not make it end up in pine coffins on an island east of the Bronx. Each grave is home to a thousand coffins. For many it is the only home, and the only community, they will have known. Their names are etched on the side by prisoners. "Fahoren," shouted the overseer. In the nick of time he stopped it from being misspelled. Fahoren. Perhaps he too, like those Dutch sailors in *The Great Gatsby*, once saw in this island "something commensurate with man's capacity for wonder".

Nicholas Shakespeare

● The trio Arc-en-ciel gives an unusual concert of French music from the 18th and 20th centuries in the Farnham Room on February 3. In the first half Neil McLaren, Angela East and Sharon Gould play 18th-century flute, viola da gamba and harpsichord respectively; in the second they switch to 20th-century flute, cello and piano.

Into the skin of the common man

The story of Gene Hackman's success may have taken a long time to write but, as *Twice in a Lifetime* opens in London on Friday, he finds himself supremely able to handle it: interview by Nicholas Shakespeare



Hackman: "I don't really know how nice I am. I know, when things don't go well, I get a little out of control."

Up in the lift to the top of the Hyde Park Hotel there is time to contemplate what people have said about Gene Hackman. "A poor man's Marlon Brando with a face like a man-handled melon and waiter's feet." "Too nice a guy" (for his part in *The French Connection* - he was the seventh choice). "An overnight success story that took 20 years to write" (after his Oscar for that part). "A four-star homogenized all-American pain in the posterior" (presumably a result of his subsequent success in films like *Scarface* and *The Conversation*).

In the corridor, stretching away like the view through the wrong end of a telescope, there is just time to mull over what he has said about himself. "You can't be Mr Nice Guy and get people's attention." "One morning the bubble will burst and people will say 'Gene Who?'."

The face fits, with round eyebrows beginning a circle which is completed in his mouth and rippled in his chin. So, it must be said, do the feet. Sitting cross-legged on a sofa by the window, Gene Hackman bends his shoe, fiddles with a sugar cube and casts his glum blue eyes over London. He is here to promote his thirty-fifth film, *Twice in a Lifetime*, which opens at the Odeon Haymarket on Friday. It is the story of a steelworker (and grandfather, "but I don't deal with that") who leaves his wife and family for a part-time barmaid. Written by Colin Welland, it is one of the more moving portrayals of a marriage break-up I have seen, shirking nothing and apportioning no blame. It would also seem to mirror Hackman's own life.

"I'm from that same class and knew exactly the same tensions. The part I play is not unlike that of my dad, a journeyman pressman, who left home [DeWitt, Illinois] when I was 13, though I never knew about another woman." Coincidentally, Hackman found himself playing the part as his own marriage broke up. "It took a toll on me and my children. I think my acting changed because of it. It was more comfortable going on location for three months, but unfortunately in that I could not see a friend I had had for 35 years. There is anger and hatred stored up which I wish didn't exist." The divorce was tough. He picks up

a menu to distract himself from the thought of it and rings for room service. "If I overwork, it's out of fear of my wife's lawyers."

Hackman, the chubby-cheeked, late bloomer, left home at 16 and lied about his age to join the Marines. "There was a kid down the street from me who had a relation killed in the Second World War. In a small community this man was a local hero, someone to look up to. Coming back one day from a basketball game I saw a porter outside the Post Office with a marine in uniform. It appeared to

me. I thought I could get away from authority." He found himself in China as Shanghai fell to the Communists ("down to the YMCA and the local whorehouse was the extent of my experience of the country") and with two broken legs after a motor bike accident in Korea. By the age of 20 he was a discharged veteran, without much confidence - "But with a great and terrible need to express myself. I couldn't do it in words, so I got involved in the theatre."

It was a dismal time and he lacked encouragement. "It was 10

years before I got a job. A humbling experience." At the Pasadena Playhouse he and Dustin Hoffman were judged "the two least likely to succeed." With Robert Duvall he would do a round of agents, tip-toeing to their offices and sliding a photo and c.v. under their doors. "It was totally made up," he says, re-enacting the movement with his menu under the coffee-table.

"My first part was to replace someone who had gotten sick at the theatre where Dusty was the dishwasher. I think I got him the job." (Hoffman later repaid this by

scoring him the part of Mr Robinson in *The Graduate*, "but I got fired because I just wasn't funny enough"). Then came a two-minute part in *Lilith*, a longer appearance, also with Warren Beatty, in *Bonnie and Clyde* ("he's probably our best producer") and a run of face-in-the-crowd roles until he woke up famous in 1972 as the detective Popeye Doyle. "And bankable," he smiles at last. "From \$30,000 a movie I was suddenly getting \$600,000."

"When success happens that late you feel you know how to handle it. I know what the feeling of being a doorman is," he says after giving an order to the waiter who has knocked and entered. "I wore a white uniform with green braid at a restaurant in Times Square." (One day, the famous story goes, his former Marine Captain spotted him. "Hackman," he said, shaking his head, "you're a sorry son of a bitch.") "I think that's what has put me in touch with what I can do as an actor, which is to get into the skin of the common man."

The Nice Guy image is as deceptive as his Tough Guy parts. "My midwestern attitude comes over as nice. I don't really know how nice I am. I know on set, when things don't go well, I'm upset. I get a little out of control. But it's hard to have to be tough on one hand, to get your way as a performer amongst all those talented people, and on the other be vulnerable in front of the camera, allowing impulses to come to you."

It is not an easy conflict to reconcile. "The boredom on set is crushing. You wonder if you'll spend the rest of your life waiting for the lights to be rigged." Having waited for so long, Hackman has reached that age when actors like to direct. "A lot of my co-directors out there would love to see me try," he says ironically. "But I haven't found anything I'm crazy about." He would also like to paint more. "I was kind of trained as an impressionist by a Russian whose paintings were hung in the Hermitage." There is a long silence. He looks again at the Hyde Park landscape. The waiter returns. I take my leave. For the first time Gene Hackman looks cheerful. "I think you got some new stuff there," he says.

JAZZ

Bill Bruford's Earthworks Elizabeth Hall

It has been six years since Bill Bruford last led his own quartet, and at that time his previous experience as the drummer of the heavyweights Yes, Genesis and King Crimson was fresh enough to encourage his deployment of a forceful element of stylized rock within a format of complex structures and time-signatures most commonly associated with modern jazz.

He returned, to open a week of concerts by artists on the Editions EG label, as leader of a remarkable line-up comprising Django Bates (keyboards) and John Ballamy (saxophones), both of Loose Tubes, and the double-bassist Mick Hutton, an ensemble more firmly rooted in the sounds and nuances of jazz, though, as Bates's squawking over-loaded synthesizer solo in "Tone Row" suggested, still

capable of delivering the power punch on demand.

The supreme clarity and economy of Bruford's drumming remains undiminished, and he seems to develop new powers of musicality to embrace every advance in drum technology. His use of many tuned and programmed electronic pads was both ingenious and melodically apt, whether it was as (roughly) a steel-drum sound marking the chord-changes in "Up North" or as exquisitely harmonized chimes in the oriental-flavoured "Ikabana".

The light touch of Hutton's bass-playing in a Bates composition, "Emotional Shift", left the middle ground unusually exposed as Bates on piano and Ballamy on tenor embarked on a furious cacophony of spiky soloing, but when Bates took a horn solo during "Bridge of Imagination" Bruford punctuated the section with controlled bursts of orchestral noise from Simmons drums. Such intriguing hi-tech effects were balanced by compositions like Ballamy's "It Needn't End in Tears", a gentle ballad that found Bruford deftly swishing brushes around the snare. These contrasts, together with disciplined arrangements of consistently excellent material, ensured optimum exposure for a group of exceptional talents.

David Sinclair

DANCE

Coppelia Sadler's Wells

acquiring added relevance when the company is celebrating four decades of achievement.

One large virtue of the present production is that it allows scope for personal reinterpretations of Dr Coppelia by various performers. There will be five of them during the run, with David Bantley rightly taking pride of place on Monday night. More than anyone else, he catches a happy balance between humour and credibility. No doubt he could, if he set his mind to it, prove as uproariously comic in the role as Helpmann and Holder in

years gone by, but he prefers to provide enough humour while also bringing out the poetry of the ballet. You feel that, with him, trying to put a human soul into his doll is serious work; and when he thinks the trick has come off there is an awesome wonder in the finger-biting admiration with which he regards his supposed creation.

Karen Donovan makes a bright, bubbling Swanilda and, like Peter Jacobson as Franz, her dancing is clean, quick and lively, although neither of them has yet fully found how to use their arms to add grace to their brilliant legwork. Sandra Madgwick danced her Dawn solo brilliantly, almost too exuberantly, and Barry Woods' waltz ensured that Delibes's music went with a swing.

John Percival

Masterful vintage farce

So far, the Ben Travers revival has been limited to his pre-war long-runners. But *Spotted Dick* had the bad luck to arrive during the phoney war and closed after nine performances. It has been left to Watford to make long overdue amends to a vintage farce cut off in its prime. A sequel to *Banana Ridge*, it was another piece for the Alfred Drayton-Robertson Hare team. Travers summed up Drayton as "a big, nautilus man admirably equipped to pursue the popular pastime of bullying Bunny Hare". And, as revivals of both plays confirm, their comic relationship is a good deal easier for later actors to evoke than the previous Tom Wells-Ralph Lynn routines.

Spotted Dick is a farce in the sporting and gambling genre to which we have lately been reintroduced in the Lyttelton revival of *Tons of Money*. These plays occupy a world of iron sexual propriety and wild financial licence, unmasking the lust of respectable people to cheat their way into millions if only they knew how.

Travers's piece is vastly superior to *Tons of Money*, partly because the author does understand cash no matter how clueless his characters may be. It is also the work of a master whose dialogue and plotting alike bear his unmistakable signature. By the

THEATRE

Spotted Dick Palace, Watford

time he wrote it, Travers had given up gross puns and conscious verbal jokes. Instead, the most ordinary expressions become hilarious through slightly misplaced word-order, or the disintegration of syntax under panic. "I'll work my fingers to the bone", roars the bankrupt Norton Plumb - "wait for Goodwood."

Plumb's little problem is the disappearance of the family jewels which his daughter is due to inherit. He has staked them on the horses. Unknown to him, his gambling wife has also handed them over to a night-club owner. Not only that, she also launders their disappearance by staging a mock break-in, not realizing that her husband's creditor, Charlie, will go ahead and claim the insurance.

That, you might think, would be material enough for the plot. But before the first act is over she confesses all, and this is merely a prelude to the real business of disentangling the mess. As the action moves into the timbered underworld of Maidenhead, there are echoes of *Thark* and

Rookery Nook. But there is no slackening of comic energy, and the main relationship between Plumb and Charlie is a wonderful demonstration of Travers's lifelong devotion to bullies and victims.

In Lou Stein's production, a booming, rhinoceros-headed Christopher Benjamin browbeats an impossibly indignant Anthony O'Donnell. The fun lies in the variety of the bullying. Sometimes Charlie is elbowed aside like a chair in the wrong place; sometimes he is coaxed into a sense of security so as to walk into a trap. The company, who excel in sporting vowels and race-track manners, stop well short of satirizing the piece; and there are sparkling support performances from Paula Wilcox and David Baines.

Irving Wardle

Obviously, a pianist who can give a convincing account of this work, with a marvellous command of its bubbling movement through time, is a rare performer.

I suspect the Birmingham Quartet may be just as valuable, for they showed a very impressive vigour and solidity of ensemble. The two violins are dynamic, tight of time and exacting, their companions softer; and they combined with a will to give a magnificent performance of the Late-slavski Quartet. Paul Patterson's Quartet, which they dispatched with similar confidence, is a compact pendant to the Bartok set.

Paul Griffiths

Entertainments appear on page 7

Malcolm McDowell Mary Steenburgen
Cherie Lunghi Frank Grimes
and
Geoffrey Burridge

HOLIDAY

A COMEDY BY Philip Barry

WITH Don Fellows

Clare Clifford
Daniel Benzali
Susan Denaker

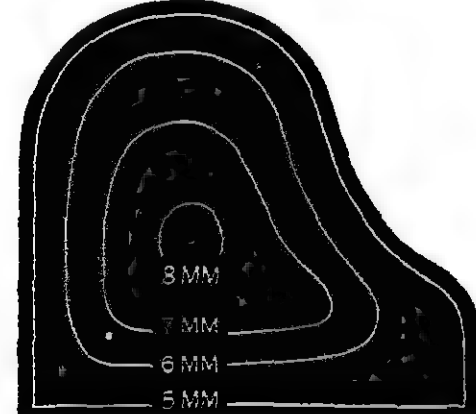
INTERVIEWED BY Lindsay Anderson

SET DESIGNER Michael Pavella COSTUME DESIGNER Tom Rand LIGHTING DESIGNER Mick Hughes

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IT INSTITUTE

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

The super-tech goes into big business

The need for computer literacy is now accepted worldwide, yet the UK has been slow in taking up the challenge. The new IT Institute will help make Britain a leader in the handling, storage and transmitting of information by technological means

IT Institute

For most academics, a higher education establishment without a vice-chancellor and a senate or court would be unthinkable. In these times of rapid change, however, virtually anything is possible.

Indeed, this report is about a new degree-awarding institution which will be administered on commercial lines by a chief executive reporting to a supervisory board of directors, and which could be a blueprint for future technological universities and colleges.

The IT Institute, the new establishment, will specialize in information technology teaching and research for commerce and industry, to help cut the shortage of skilled IT people. It will be based in Milton Keynes, and is due to open in June.

The IT Institute is believed to be the first of its kind to be created jointly by industry and a university institution. More than 30 British and American firms have collaborated with Cranfield Institute of Technology, one of Britain's largest university institutions, and invested £3.5 million to set it up.

They include major IT users such as British Gas, British Aerospace and British Petro-



PROFILE

The chief executive of the IT Institute, Dr Alan Fox, left, was appointed for his all-round record in information technology. His career embraces research, working with industry, technology transfer and involvement in the creation of higher education programmes.

Dr Fox was a deputy director of the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, Malvern, one of the foremost centres of electronics and IT research in Europe, responsible mainly for the development of electronic, computer and certain allied technologies for the defence and trade ministries. He has been active as a member of collaborative research programmes in western Europe and North America.

leum, as well as major IT suppliers such as IBM, DEC, BICC, British Telecom, CAP, Hewlett-Packard, Inmos, Intel, McDonnell Douglas, Pericom, Rent-Merit, Secon, Tektronix and SDRG-CAE International.

The IT Institute will be run as a self-supporting commercial company, with many of the sponsor firms having representatives on its board of directors. The board will have direct control of its activities to ensure courses and research are geared to industry requirements and based on the world's latest IT resources.

The new institute is the brainchild of Sir Henry Chilver, vice-chancellor of Cranfield, a strong advocate of industry-university collaboration who firmly believes that IT, and its cost-effective use, by industry and commerce, are vitally important for the economy.

Information technology is the world's fastest growing business and industrial activ-

ity, and its development and applications are accelerating rapidly in all industrialized countries, he points out.

"Increasingly, people are realizing that future prosperity depends on the success with which IT products and ser-

Prosperity depends on the success with which IT products and services can be produced and utilized

vices can be produced and utilized in every sector of business and government," he said.

"Thus, to be in the forefront of world trade, British commerce and industry must adopt IT methods for their manufacturing and business operations. If we fail to do so, we will become uncompetitive

in international markets, with all that means for jobs and lack of economic growth.

"It is also essential that Britain has a thriving IT industry, able to compete successfully in the multi-billion pound market for IT products, which is growing at more than 10 per cent a year.

"In Britain," he said, "progress towards these vital objectives has long been hampered by an acute shortage of people trained in the necessary skills."

Sir Henry said though education establishments throughout the country are training students in IT skills, the institute's founders — and many others in commerce and industry — contend that the present outputs of the higher educational system are not meeting the country's needs for people with higher skills in IT.

He said: "There are increasing mismatches between the skills required by industry and the skills provided by the

educational system. Many students of IT are trained on obsolete hardware and software, and cannot be usefully employed until they have undergone further training on current systems."

This is because traditional centres of higher education often cannot afford the high cost of updating their equipment. The cost of updating the new institute's equipment, for example, will be £2 million a year.

According to the institute's chief executive, Dr Alan Fox, the new institute's user-orientated approach to IT is essential if the long-standing shortage of people with IT skills is to be overcome.

"IT education and training in the UK are mainly geared to the needs of IT suppliers," he says. "While skills for designing computers are obviously necessary, it is the skills for applying computing techniques to applications which users want to computerize, that are in short supply.

"The IT skills shortage in the City, for example, is not of people with expertise in computing, but of people expert in financial systems and who know how to computerize them in a cost-effective way. Thus we need to provide courses that develop skills for IT users — particularly as new developments in hardware, software and communications increase, and open up more potential applications for computerization."

Dr Fox is aiming the institute's activities at industries requiring training at all levels, and adopting a "top-down" approach by offering courses from top management downwards.

"Management cannot make important decisions on the most cost-effective IT strategy for their businesses — and thus safeguard their competitiveness — without a knowledge of all the points they need to consider," he said.

Graduate and post-graduate courses will also be offered.

Teaching activities are expected to grow to some 200 post-graduate programmes and over 4,000 IT courses for industry personnel over the first five years.

Research activities will cover high growth application

We need courses to develop skills for IT users as new developments open up more applications for computerization

areas such as networking, microelectronics, software engineering, and artificial intelligence, and will be carried on a joint venture basis with sponsoring companies and international research institutions.

Income from teaching and research is expected to grow from £2.5 million in the first

year, to £12.5 million in year five.

Dr Fox believes the commercial structure, financial independence and international character of the IT Institute will enable it to keep up with the latest developments in IT worldwide, and afford to constantly update its teaching and research resources with the latest equipment.

The institute will also have the resources to develop new training techniques and tailor its courses and research to quickly adapt to changing market requirements.

It could be argued that as academic institutions increasingly realize the problems of teaching and research in high technology, so they will develop new teaching institutions working closely with industry.

Thus the IT Institute could be regarded as the shape of things to come.

Frank Brown

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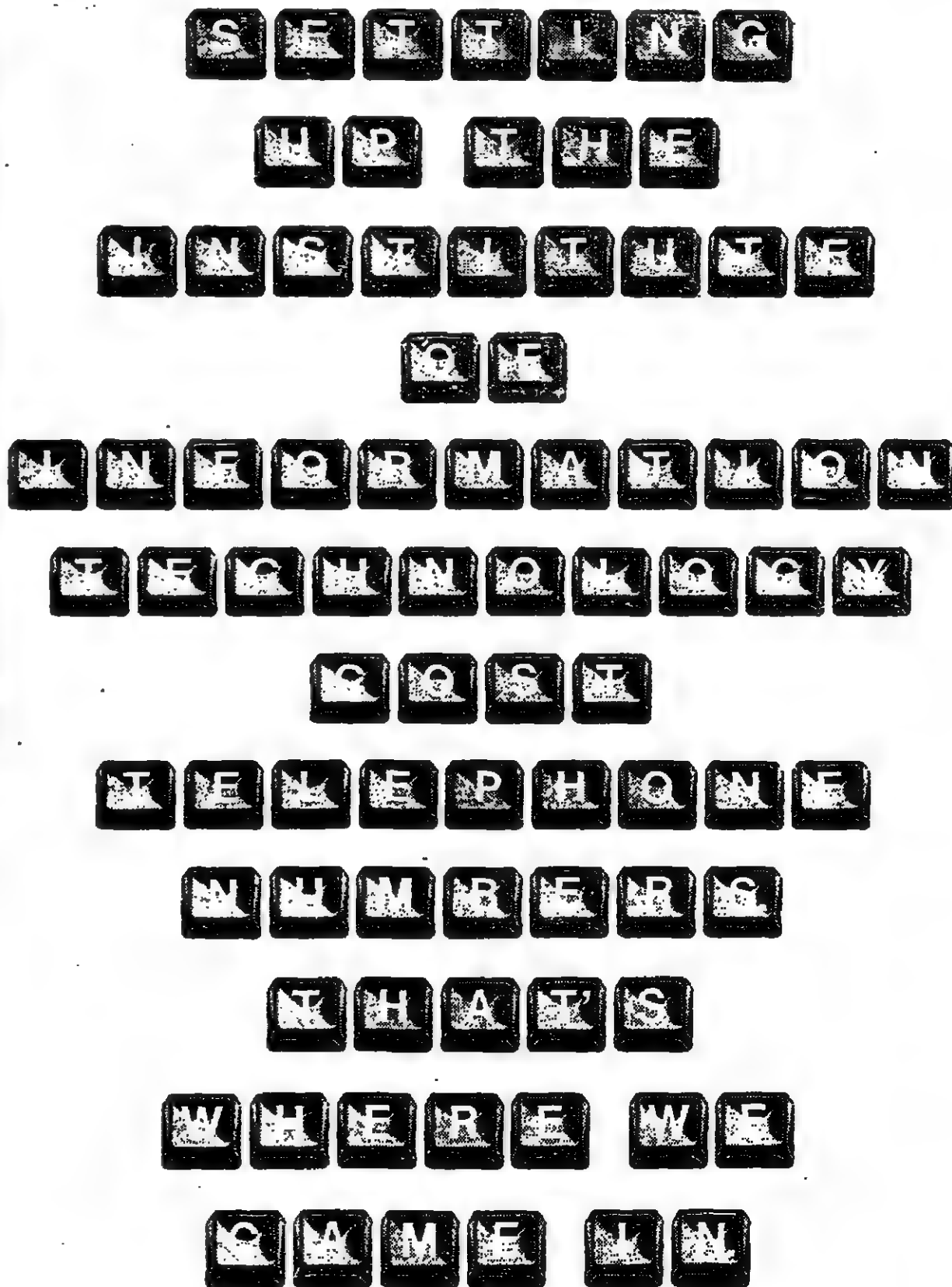
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THE PEOPLE FOR COMMUNICATION

Research is the big earner

The IT Institute was created to serve a desperate need: how is Britain to get a larger slice of the business in an industry whose development and application is accelerating in all industrialized countries?

It was with this thought in mind — initially prompted by the approach of several leading British companies — that the Cranfield Institute of Technology decided to create the IT Institute, with the objective of providing training to help redress the acute shortage of people in the UK trained in IT skills.

The shortage is a widely acknowledged constraint on Britain's ability to take full advantage of the explosion in IT opportunities.

Last year a report prepared for the Government by the Institute of Manpower Studies estimated that the market for IT products and services would grow by at least 10 per cent between now and 1990 — and carried the warning that the skill shortages would continue throughout the period.

The IMS report followed an investigation into IT skill shortages which concluded that a new partnership must be formed between industry and the education system. The IT Institute is partly a product of that concern.

It is a concept with which Cranfield Institute of Technology has earned an enviable reputation in the fields of training, research and development: find an area of growth, examine its potential, bring together a high-calibre

team of multi-disciplinary skills and industry and commerce will come knocking on the door with both the students to participate in the courses and the cash to fund the operation.

Energy has been one field that Cranfield has exploited, in the sense of exploring its potential; the environment has been another. Now it is information technology, with 25 companies backing the institute to the tune of more than £4 million.

One guiding principle of the IT Institute is that students must have access to the most-advanced equipment, and in the IT field, nothing remains the most-advanced for all that long. But set alongside that yardstick is the qualification that they need to be trained on equipment which will be available within their own working environment.

About £2 million a year will be required to maintain a regular updating of the IT Institute's equipment. Industrialists behind the Milton Keynes initiative have complained that the teaching of information technology at UK universities and colleges has been hampered because the equipment is often out of date.

Seven companies — British Aerospace, British Gas, BICC, BP, British Telecom, Cable & Wireless and Longman — have been cash sponsors; others, such as Digital Equipment, GEC Software, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Tektronix and Oracle, have been hardware and software sponsors.

Run on commercial business rather than on traditional

academic administration lines, "it is," said Sir Henry Chilver, vice-chancellor of Cranfield, "the first industry-funded higher education establishment of its kind entirely devoted to the teaching and development of information technology."

Its teaching activities will include training graduates of

IT Institute



Sir Henry Chilver: Problem of continuous investment.

other disciplines, running graduate programmes for graduates with IT degrees and providing IT update courses for executives, managers and other key commerce and industry personnel.

This month, as an example, the IT Institute is starting specially constructed courses

in information systems engineering for companies as disparate, industrially and geographically, as Massey Ferguson in the UK, Phillips at Eindhoven in the Netherlands and the aerospace division of Alfa Romeo in Naples.

Specially designed courses are in preparation to meet needs, especially those of its company backers such as British Telecom, BP and British Aerospace.

Teaching activities at the institute are expected to grow to 200 postgraduate programmes and 4,000 IT update courses over the first five years. Dr Alan Fox, the institute's principal and chief executive, is also working on plans for the introduction of an undergraduate course, but the emphasis will be on post-graduate courses.

Probably 80 per cent of the courses will be specially designed for companies — which will be held either at the IT or in-house — but a whole raft of IT short courses have been organized for the benefit of industry.

Designed to run from between three to six weeks, the short courses will include new design technologies, computer aided design (CAD) for designers and draughtsmen, information systems engineering, application and management of CAD, and selecting and exploiting CAD.

There is also the distinct possibility that some short courses will be run for students over a period of time, at which they will earn points

and finally emerge with an MSc degree.

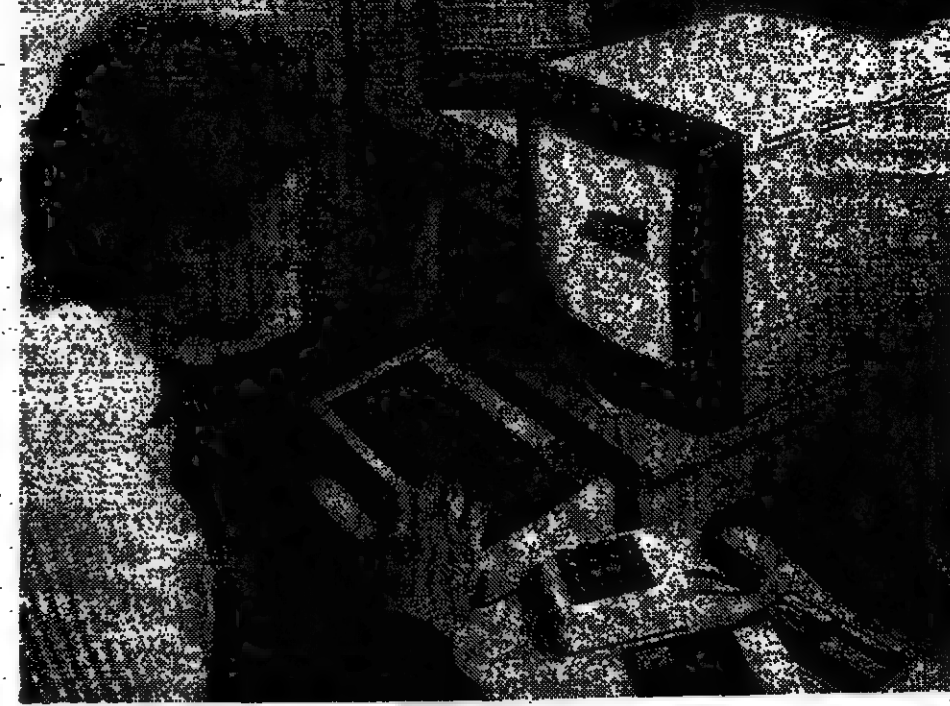
The IT Institute, which started preliminary work in September, has so far a staff of eight. Five more are expected to be recruited within the year. But the IT foresees a staff of 150, with research income growing to around £6 million a year.

Research activities will focus on key IT applications areas such as networking, parallel processing, software engineering, artificial intelligence and microelectronics, but the overall initial concept of Dr Fox is providing training facilities in systems approach to computers in the areas of design, management and manufacture.

The aim will be to educate people on the courses on how best to integrate systems with a company to maximize their potential use. There can be hypothetical modules or a company coming forward with a practical problem which it needs resolving.

As information technology grows, a continual problem is that there are increasing mismatches between the skills required by industry and those provided by the education system. Many students of IT are being trained on obsolete equipment and cannot be usefully employed until they have undergone further training on systems in current use.

As for its potential users, the institute has broken them down under five headings: manufacturers of components and sub-systems for computers and their associated peripherals, manufacturers of



computers and specialized processors; manufacturers of large-scale IT systems, including commercial systems, communications systems, production systems and data handling systems; software houses; IT users, including commercial businesses, industrial organizations, public sector organizations, medicine and leisure industries.

The institute believes there is a wide need "out there" to exploit the benefits of information technology, not only in training personnel but also in its development.

Michael Hatfield



The IT revolution at work. Top: developing a system for automatic measurement in laboratories. Above: testing feed systems for direct broadcasting by satellite antennas.

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CRANFIELD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY is unique among British universities. It is unique because it specialises in advanced teaching and applied research in engineering, technology, management and public policy. It is unique in that the majority of its courses are at postgraduate level and are frequently aimed at the maturer student. It is unique in that it is the largest centre for applied research, development and design for industry, commerce, defence and the public services within Western Europe.

The development of **CRANFIELD INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** from its inception as the College of Aeronautics in 1946, through to the granting of a Royal Charter in 1969, the inclusion of Silsoe College and more recently, the Royal Military College of Science as Faculties of the Institute, reflect the growing importance and widening scope of the work of the Institute, and its leadership in the increased collaboration between academia and industry so necessary for the well being of the nation.

The Institute currently operates on three campuses at Cranfield, Silsoe and Shrivenham. On each campus, applied research, postgraduate and post-experience teaching are a feature of the work of every school. There is constant interplay between these activities which fuels the unique synergy that has underpinned Cranfield's achievements over the last forty years.

The Cranfield Review, which concentrates on the research aspects of Cranfield's work, and the guide to Courses, which gives course details for the three campuses are available from John Blagden, Corporate Information Services, Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Bedford, MK43 0AL.

Why the profits will be ploughed back

The IT Institute is an initiative in educational-industrial cooperation without precedent. Independent, and run as a business, it has no vice-chancellor but a chief executive, reporting to a board of directors.

Though Cranfield Institute of Technology has embarked on the project as one of the leading shareholders, it will be for the board to decide how to run the venture.

"The difficulty with industrial support for higher education in Britain is that organizations usually make endowments on a once-and-for-all basis", Sir Henry Chilver, Cranfield's vice-chancellor, has explained. "Getting continuous investment is one of the biggest problems facing higher education."

He added: "The teaching of information technology subjects, with the short life of equipment, requires continuous investment and that is why we need to run the institute as a business. Profits will be ploughed back into the business to provide new resources."

"There is room for many other institutes", says Sir Henry, but he sees Cranfield as being different because it will "relate to all the leading companies in the world".

Whereas most other universities and colleges have a relationship with locally-based companies, the IT Institute "is programmed to develop on international lines."

It represents a significant development in technological higher education, as well as being a milestone in collaboration between industry and education.

Independent and self-supporting

It will be the first wholly industry-funded and commercially-run higher education centre of its kind, dedicated entirely to the teaching and development of information technology.

For the first-time, Britain will have an independent centre of technological learning which will be geared to the needs of commerce and industry, and will be self-supporting.

Though the institute's main location will be Milton Keynes, as digital fibre-optic networks develop, so the possibility of locating branches close to concentrations of commerce and industry in various parts of the country — in other words, distributed higher technological education — will become practical.

As part of the institute's policy to serve commerce and industry nationwide, it plans to set up additional locations in other regional areas.

What the IT Institute aims to do is to provide a sustained and integrated approach to both IT advanced teaching and applied research. It is confident of success because, nationally, the resources going into higher education are diminishing, making it impossible for most institutions to channel into IT the level of resourcing required.

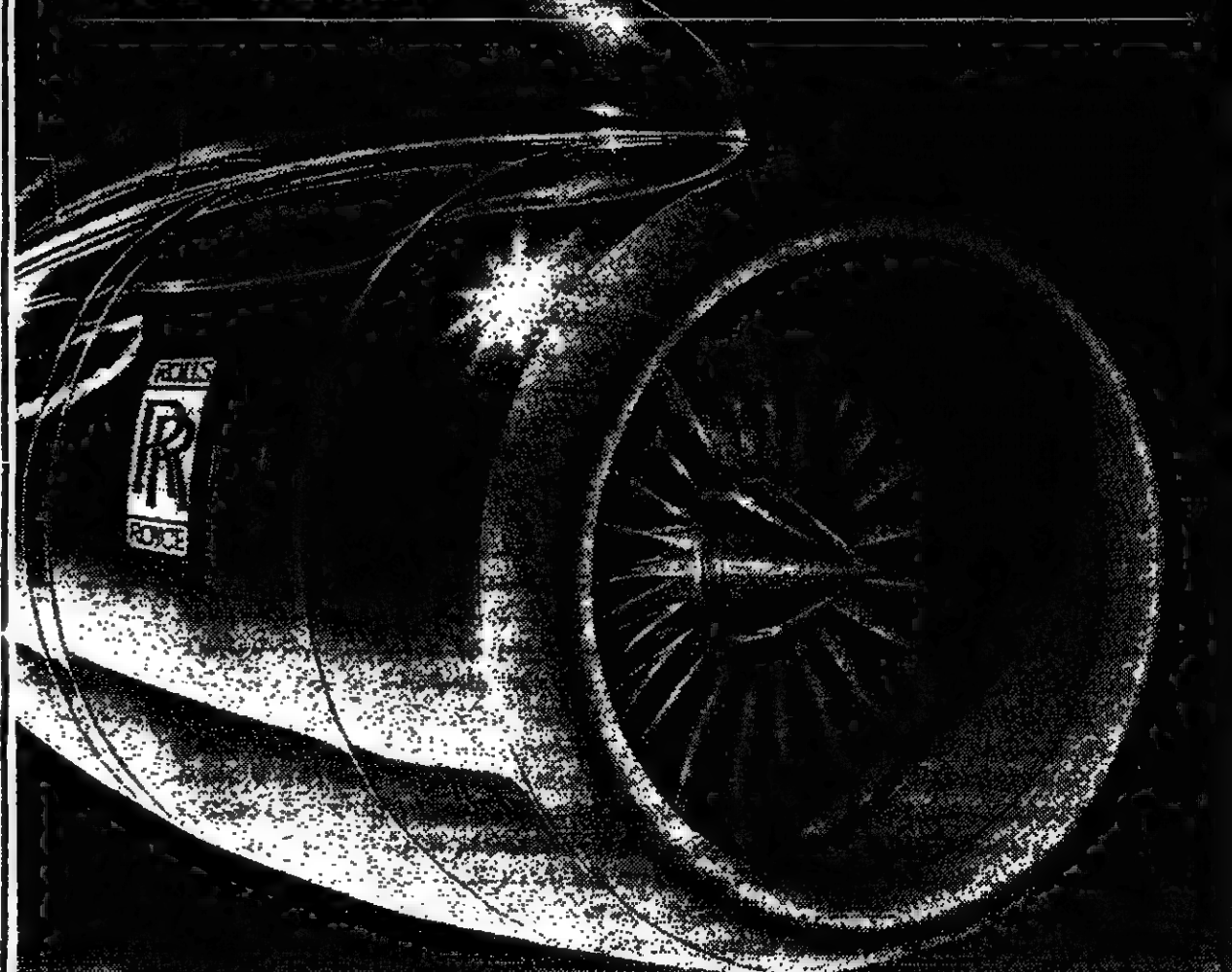
The Cranfield IT Institute, on the other hand, is being resourced by the very companies which will require its services. Moreover, Cranfield, because it has started from an initial base of financial self-sufficiency through its backers, will be able to offer the competitive salaries to attract the high-calibre staff which will be needed.

As well as developing an international establishment of

education and research, the IT Institute has three objectives in mind: to provide an independent tertiary education model which overcomes the constraints of the present system; to generate new "spin-off" companies, as Cranfield has done with its other educational centres; and to exploit the commercial application of its research and development programmes.

MH

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Cinemas hurt by Puttnam's apartheid lead

From George Brock, Johannesburg

South Africa's largest cinema chain is threatening to close down cinemas which do not become multi-racial within the next few months.

Ster-Kinekor, which runs 150 cinemas across the country, has told several town councils around Johannesburg that it will close cinemas rather than run them under racial segregation laws.

Fifteen of its cinemas are still "whites only". Cinemas are one of several places in which the Government has repeatedly promised to end "petty" apartheid; in practice it often persists outside the largest cities.

The company's decision follows a threat from one of the leading Hollywood distributors, Columbia Pictures, to stop supplying cinema chains operating segregated theatres after May 1.

David Puttnam, the British film producer and the new head of Columbia Pictures, is leading the Hollywood campaign, where other big studios are believed to be moving quietly in the same direction.

Films shown at leading cinemas here are almost entirely American and any such sanction would have an immediate and visible effect on the range of films available.

Johannesburg cinemas this week are showing Hollywood imports from *101 Dalmatians* to *Top Gun* and *Legal Eagles*. Local interest is represented

by a new film version of the much-loved story of loyal dog and master, *Jock of the Bushveld*.

The Australian *Crocodile Dundee* has been doing record business, mostly, say local wits, because people want to find out more about Australia before deciding whether to emigrate and get away from South Africa's future.

The country's second largest chain, CIC (South Africa), which is American-owned and controlled from London, has so far had no instructions to try to speed up the abolition of lingering apartheid.

Mr Graydon Fry, deputy general manager of CIC (South Africa), said yesterday that his company operated 32 screens, of which six were still segregated. "Up to this minute, we have had absolutely nothing from London."

There are thought to be between 400 and 500 cinemas in the country. At the end of September, 228 were multi-racial according to the Government. In May, 1985, only 14 were open to all races.

Cinemas can be opened only when town councils apply to the provincial administration for permission to do so. Once applied for, permission is nowadays rarely refused. Ster-Kinekor's threat is aimed at last-ditch resistance from Transvaal's most conservative parts.

Card carrying strikers left in the dark



French strikers were forced to play cards by candlelight yesterday as electricity workers' industrial action led to power cuts. Power chaos, Page 5.

Reagan prostate free of cancer

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Doctors reported yesterday that the tissue removed surgically from President Reagan's enlarged prostate was free of cancer and that the President was feeling so well that he had asked: "What am I doing here?"

Dr John Hutton, the President's physician, said Mr Reagan was recovering well from the prostate surgery he underwent on Monday at Bethesda Naval Hospital. "He feels good and has not complained of any pain. His vital signs are all in the normal range and are stable and strong."

"There is no evidence of post-operative infection. His physicians are impressed and extremely pleased by the President's resilience."

"Final laboratory results on tissue removed during the transurethral resection are in and show the tissue to be benign."

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House press secretary, said Mr Reagan, aged 75, was recovering smoothly. He would undergo a cat scan, a final test to determine whether there had been any spread of cancer in the abdomen.

The President was operated on for colon cancer last July. Since then tiny polyps have been removed from his intestine during regular checks and all have been found to be non-malignant.

500 Chinese reported killed

London (Reuters) - Vietnamese troops killed nearly 500 Chinese soldiers in clashes in northern Vietnam, Hanoi radio said yesterday.

The radio said Chinese infantry launched three attacks on Monday in the province of Ha Tuyen but were beaten back.

The two communist states have clashed before on their border but there have been no reported major incidents in the last four years.

One source speculated that if true, it would constitute a major setback for Mr Gorbachev.

Alliance divided over election spokesmen

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The Alliance attempt to put together a team of joint election spokesmen was in turmoil last night, with deep divisions opening up over its size and composition.

Some senior Liberals were arguing that an announcement should be postponed until the beginning of a general election campaign, while others maintained that it should at least be delayed until after the Barbecue rally this month to allow for consultations.

The parties are also split over who should be given the key defence job. Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Woolwich, or Mr Russell Johnston, long-serving Liberal MP for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal

leader, is understood to be backing Mr Johnston, a right-leaning supporter of the nuclear deterrent, having been persuaded that Mr Cartwright carries too much nuclear baggage for his party's nuclear and civil.

Dr David Owen believes the job should go to his defence spokesman, an acknowledged expert, who firmly backed his ally in the summer when he insisted the Alliance had to commit itself to maintaining and, if necessary, replacing Britain's Polaris force.

A majority of senior Liberals are also arguing that the team should not embrace any clear pecking order within the various portfolios and that it should be expanded from its original 12 to nearer 24.

Anderton crusade criticized

Continued from page 1

to bear and one is making the notification of Aids far less likely or possible," added Dr Habgood.

"That is the danger of the kind of statements the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester made a few weeks ago. By turning this into a great moral crusade he has tended to increase the guilt and fear that many people feel."

On one point Dr Habgood agreed with Mr Anderton, a former Methodist lay preacher now converting to Catholicism. They both believe a halt should be called to casual sex with couples returning to a faithful relationship with a single partner.

A few days ago Mr Anderton told *The Times* that he stood by every single word now and would for the rest of his life.

Aids controversy, page 2

Contras burgled in Washington

Continued from page 1

the Contras' arms deals, was apparently burgled. Documents relating to the investigations were said to be the target.

Several groups around the country known to oppose American support for the Contras have reported burglaries, resulting in the theft of records and documents relating to funding of the Contras and the Iran arms deals.

The latest documents stolen from the FDN are unlikely to have any direct connection to the diversion of funds to the Contras from profits connected with arms sales to Iran. But they did include copies of cheques from private US donors and financial records from 1983.

The FDN's Washington office is part of a suite rented by the United Nicaraguan Opposition, the umbrella organization linking three principal rebel groups, situated a few miles from central Wash-

ington. Señor Matamoros said he discovered the documents were missing from an unlocked cabinet when he returned from a Christmas holiday.

The office is used primarily for lobbying Congress and maintaining contact with Reagan Administration officials.

Meanwhile, the White House reacted furiously yesterday to a refusal by the Senate Intelligence Committee to release a 160-page report that said President Reagan was unlikely to have known of the diversion of profits to the Contras from the Iran arms sales.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said President Reagan "is outraged, deeply disappointed. He is concerned that a committee of the elected representatives in Congress will not make available to the American people the facts they have gathered."

US control alleged by Labour MP

Continued from page 1

through ministers as regional commissioners and hand over certain ground defence areas to the US.

That under another secret agreement with the Americans, the US-UK Lines of Communication Agreement of 1983, Mrs Thatcher "has given permission that, in the event of hostilities, up to 30 large NHS hospitals would be used to discharge their patients in order to receive US military casualties."

That through their control of spare parts, the US could hold almost all our main defence, industrial and research computers to ransom.

That US Department of Commerce regulations requiring audits of British companies ostensibly to prevent the sale of US equipment to the Eastern block are frequently only cover for industrial espionage, with licences for British exports held up while

American firms grab the business.

And that Mrs Thatcher, determined to have an American FWR reactor and to have our electricity supplied by nuclear power rather than coal "effectively confronted the NUM on behalf of Westinghouse."

A Defence Ministry spokesman last night described Mr Meacher's claims about CIA men in the Ministry under the Cocom umbrella as "absolute rubbish" and senior Labour figures moved swiftly last night to distance the party leadership from Mr Meacher's initiative. It was explained authoritatively that Mr Meacher's letter was a "purely personal statement" which did not reflect any Labour party initiative and was not being taken at all seriously. Mr Kinnoch, it was emphasised, had no prior knowledge of the Meacher letter, a claim disputed by Mr Meacher's friends.

Today's events

New exhibitions

The Art of Map-Making: Dutch Cartography; Portsmouth Polytechnic, Portsmouth: Tues to Sun, 10 to 5, closed Mon (ends Jan 18). Derek Ryan Landscapes 1979-1986; Gillian Jason Gallery, 42 Inverness St, NW1, Tues to Sat 10.30 to 5.30 (ends Jan 24). Riverside Artist Group Ex-

hibition and photographs by Fay Godwin; Fulham Palace, Bishops Avenue, SW6, Wed to Sat 11 to 7.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Feb 8). Paintings by Ivan Brann; The Talent Store Gallery, 11 Eccleston St, SW1, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30 (ends Jan 30). Drawings and Paintings by Yumi Katayama; The Cresser Gallery, 320 Portobello Rd, W10, Tue to Sat 10 to 6 (ends Feb 10). Ceramic Plates by Laurie Jo

Wright; Anatol Orient, 318 Portobello Rd, W10, Wed to Sat 10.30 to 5.30 (ends Jan 31). 40 Years of British Art - Paintings in Hospitals; Sotheby's, 34 New Bond St, W1, Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30 (ends Jan 20). Works on Paper; Benjamin Rhodes Gallery, 4 New Burlington Place, W1, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 11 to 1.30 pm (ends Jan 31). W10, Tue to Sat 10 to 6 (ends Feb 10). Ceramic Plates by Laurie Jo

Jeanson Hunting, Shooting and Fishing Library of books and manuscripts; Sotheby's, 34 New Bond St, W1, Tue to Fri 9.30 to 4.30 (ends Jan 9). Past into the Future; Meche, 1 Birdcage Walk, SW1, Mon to Fri 9.15 to 5.30 (ends Jan 30).

Music Schubert Programme; Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, W1, 7.30. London Festival Ballet The Nutcracker; Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 7.30. South Bank Editions - musical festival; Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1, 8.00. Fairer Sax - saxophone quartet; 6, PLC Young Artists Concert, 7.30, both at Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1. Organ Recital by Adrian Bawtree; St Bride's Fleet St, EC4, 1.15. Lunchtime Telemann Cantata Series; Church of St Anne and St Agnes, Gresham St, EC2, 1.10 to 1.50. Bach and Brahms Concert; The Guild Church of St Martin-in-the-Ludgate, Ludgate Hill, EC4, 1.15. Bourneouth Symphony Orchestra Concert with Murray Perahia (piano); Wessex Hall, Poole Arts Centre, 7.30. Chris Barber Jazz and Blues Band; St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff, 7.30. Halls concert; Manchester Free Trade Hall, 7.30. Talks, lectures, films Greeks and their neighbours; British Museum, 11.30. Film: Soft Self-Portrait of Salvador Dalí; Lecture Room, Tate Gallery, 11. Heroic Times; ICA, The Mall, 6.15 and 8.30. Nubian policy of the Pharaohs; Chemistry Auditorium, University College London, Gordon St, WC1, 6. Creative Seeing, by Geoffrey Jefferson, lecture with slides; Chatterbox Club, 61 Port St, Knightsbridge, SW1, 7. Visconti's Ossessione, Plymouth Arts Centre, Looe St, 8. A History of the World in 40 Minutes, by Dr Ronald Gray, 10.30 am; Working for Animals; Their Health is our Concern, by Mrs Gila Harwood, 2.30 pm; both at the Engineering Dept, Trumpington St, Cambridge.

General Fantastic Mr Fox, play for children; Gardner Arts Centre, Sussex University, Falmer, Brighton, 6. Changing styles in Dolls; Museum of London, London Wall, EC2, 2.30.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: Alexander Veselov and Russian Constitutionalism, by Griffin Omerovitch (Gower, £28.95). Russian Railways 1845-75, A Business History, by T.R. Gourvish (Cambridge, £25). Dwarf Goes to Oxford, autobiography of Jack Trevor Story (Lancet, £2.95). Gods and Goddesses, The Greek Hill-Figures of Britain, by Paul Newman (Hale, £12.95). Henry Moore, Complete Sculpture, vol 2 1940-84, vol 3 1985-84, edited by Alan Bowness (Lund Humphries, £25 each). In Defence of Literary Intemperance, by K.M. Newton (Macmillan, £27.50). The Politics of Diversity, Feminism, Modernism and Nationalism, edited by Robert Hamilton and Michele Barrett (Verso, £24.95, paperback £9.95). The Shaping of Modern Psychology, An Historical Introduction, by J.S. Hearnshaw (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £15.95). Welsh Verse Translations, by Tony Conran (Poetry Wales Press, £10.95, paperback £4.95). Writers at Work, The Paris Review Interviews, edited by George Plimpton (Secker & Warburg, £17.50).

Anniversaries

Births: Millard Filmmaker, 13th President of the USA (1850-53), Locke, 17th century, New York 1800; Saint Bernadette de Lourdes (Marie-Bernadette Soubirous), Lourdes, 1844; Charles Péguy, poet, Orleans, 1873; Francis Paulsen, composer, Paris, 1899. Deaths: Catherine of Aragon, first wife of Henry VIII, Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire, 1536; Nicholas Hilliard, miniaturist, London, 1619; Allan Ramsey, poet, Edinburgh, 1758; Sir Thomas Lawrence, painter, FRA 1820-30, London, 1830. The first flight across the English Channel was made by Jean Blanchard and Dr J. Jeffries in their hot-air balloon, crossing from Dover to Calais, 1785.

Roads

London and the South-east: Early Court Extra traffic due to opening of International Boat Show, Vauxhall Cross: Delays approaching Vauxhall Bridge due to roadworks at junction of Lambeth Rd and Kennington Lane. Essex: Roundabout construction along A120 Great Dunmow at junction with Stortford Rd. The Midlands: M5: Only one lane southbound between junctions 5 (Droitwich) and 6 (Worcester) N. Southbound entry and exit slip roads closed at junction 5. A5: Repair work at Weston under Lizard, E of Telford. A456 Hereford and Worcester Delays at Bewdley due to bypass being built.

The North: M6 South Yorkshire Delays due to lane closures at junction 23 (Marske) M61 Greater Manchester: Lane closures on both carriageways at Blacow Bridge M61/M6 because of work on motorway link at Walton Summit. A19: Work between Leven Valley viaduct and Crathorne interchange. Road closure and diversions near Humley W of junction with A4136.

Wales and West: M5 Somerset: Carriageway closures between junctions 24 (Minchew) and 27 (Tiverton). A38: Both lanes closed at top of Haldon Hill between Exeter and Plymouth, Devon. A40 Gloucestershire: Road closure and diversions near Humley W of junction with A4136.

Burst pipes

Householders can reduce the risk of burst pipes by taking a few precautions. See that taps are turned off properly, especially last thing at night, and plugs put in baths, washbasins and sinks. Check that the stop taps work. Cisterns in roofs should be covered, or enclosed with boards and the space between the boards and cistern filled with dry sawdust or paper.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.25	2.25
Canada \$	2.25	2.25
Denmark Kr	16.50	16.50
France F	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.36	2.36
Italy L	1.36	1.36
Japan Yen	163.00	163.00
Netherlands Gld	2.48	2.48
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	10.46	10.46
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00
USA \$	1.53	1.53
Yugoslavia Dnr	135.00	135.00

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC.

London: The FT Index closed up 11.5 at 1894.5.

Portfolio - Gold

Portfolio - how to play Monday's market record your daily Portfolio total. Add these together to determine your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money shared for future to collect the cheque unless for any reason within the stated period.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

WEATHER

Much of Britain will have a cold day with some sunbursts in the more N and W regions. E parts of England will be rather cloudy with a little sleet or snow in places. There will be widespread frost both early and late in the day. Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: mostly dry and cold with sunny periods and night frost. Becoming milder in N and W later.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	PM	MT	MT
London Bridge	6.55	7.25	6.55	7.25
Aberdeen	7.04	7.34	7.04	7.34
Ayr	6.58	7.28	6.58	7.28
Belfast	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Birmingham	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Bristol	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Cardiff	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Edinburgh	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Exeter	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Glasgow	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Harwich	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Holyhead	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
London	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Manchester	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Newcastle	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Nottingham	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Orkney	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Portsmouth	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Reading	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Sheffield	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Southampton	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Stirling	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Torquay	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Widnes	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22
Wilton-on-Avon	6.52	7.22	6.52	7.22

Tide measured in metres from 2.000m.

AROUND BRITAIN

	San Francisco	Paris	Madrid	Brussels	London	Amsterdam	Frankfurt	Berlin	Moscow
London	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Edinburgh	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Glasgow	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Belfast	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Cardiff	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Exeter	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Gloucester	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Leeds	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Manchester	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Newcastle	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Nottingham	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Sheffield	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Southampton	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Stirling	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Torquay	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Widnes	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
Wilton-on-Avon	12.21	7.45	4.48	3.48	2.48	1.48	0.48	0.48	0.48

These are Monday's figures. Figures not available.

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Channon clears Valuedale's bid for Simon

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Small companies hit at 'unfair' rate plan

By Our City Staff

Businesses in Scotland face some real nasties" in the abolition of Domestic Rates in Scotland Bill, now going through the committee stage in Parliament, according to the Forum of Private Business.

Proposed sewerage costs to be levied on businesses are unfair, the group, which represents 11,000 small companies in Britain, says. It fears that what it sees as extra costs for businesses will spread to companies elsewhere in Britain, since the Scottish Bill is widely considered to be a model for rate reform in other areas.

Mr Stan Mendham, the chief executive, said: "One wonders whether the sewerage rate surcharge is a neat way of ensuring that the business community funds the repair of the dilapidated sewerage system in Scotland (and throughout the UK later) before the public sale of the water authorities."

He added: "We cannot allow such an important impact on the business community to be pushed through Parliament on the coat tails of the proposed changes to the domestic community rates system."

The domestic community water rate would be paid for attributable services, but the one imposed on businesses would be based on rateable value, the very principle the new bill sought to abolish for domestic consumers, Mr Mendham said.

The Scottish Office denied that the proposed new system would put an extra burden on businesses. Business rates would be frozen and indexed, allowing increases only in line with inflation. They would be taken out of the hands of the local authorities.

Flat month for beer

Beer production was down 1.5 per cent in November last year at 3,226,484 bulk barrels, compared with 3,378,910 in the same month in 1985, the Brewers' Society said.

The figure was "slightly disappointing", given that sales had appeared to be steady, it added.

Production in the period from January to November was down 0.9 per cent at 33,579,677 bulk barrels.

Flat month for beer

COMPANY NEWS

WADE POTTERIES

Annual meeting was told that the results of the first four months' trading show a substantial increase on last year.

ELECTRON HOUSE:

At the EGM held on Jan. 5, the resolutions were passed. A total of 1.9 million new ordinary shares and million new convertible preference shares are offered to shareholders. Acceptances being received for 17,720 ordinarys (37.77 per cent) and 619,663 preference (1.97 per cent). The balance of 1.8 million ordinarys and 30,337 preference has been accepted with instructions.

SONS OF GWALIA:

The company has placed 1 million ordinary shares at Am\$5.50 each to raise additional working

BASE LENDING RATES

ARN	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
Citibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	11.00%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

STOCK MARKET

Brierley group believed to have 4.5% of Hill Samuel

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

New Zealand Insurance, a £100 million group, which lists Mr. Ron Brierley, the antipodean entrepreneur, as one of its directors, is believed to have built up a 4.5 per cent stake, worth more than £17 million, in Hill Samuel, the British merchant bank.

Shares in Hill Samuel, which owns Wood Mackenzie, the leading Scottish broker, yesterday surged by another 16p to 420p - just 4p below their peak for the 12 months - as word went round the stock market that Ord Minnett, the Australian broker which is 50 per cent owned by Westpac, the Australian banking group, was again a buyer of the stock.

Ord Minnett is understood to have been buying the shares on behalf of NZI for several weeks now - although no stake has yet been declared. This activity has lifted the Hill Samuel share price by almost 70p since early December, adding more than £60 million to its market value. In the past two days alone, its shares have risen by 26p, adding about £24 million to its market capitalization.

It is now capitalized at some £400 million - four times the value of NZI - and, although this makes some London dealers sceptical about the likelihood of a full bid materializing, some say that,

in the present climate, anything is possible. NZI made profits last year of about £30 million and has funds under management of £2 billion.

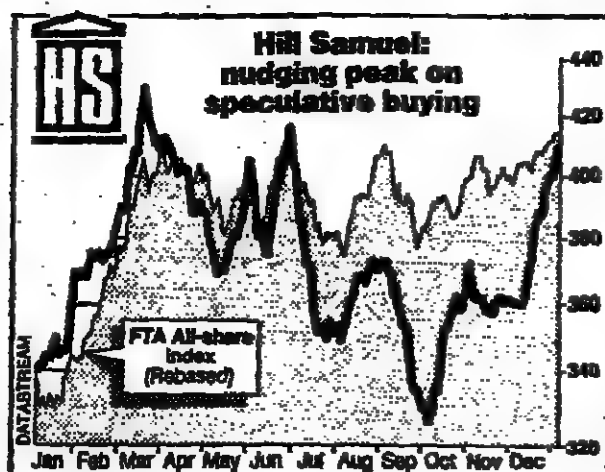
Mr. Christopher Castleman, the chief executive of Hill Samuel, said: "At this stage in the game, they are just like any other institutional shareholder. We have been aware that they were a shareholder since early December, but we do not know the size of their present holding."

The latest improvement in Hill Samuel's rating has also been helped by the activity in Mercantile House, where CrownX yesterday declared a 14.9 per cent stake. While Mercantile's shares soared by

20p to 380p, sector analysts said that the activity had led fund managers and speculators alike to focus their attention on financial services and merchant banking stocks. Kleinwort Greaves, the banking and broking house, gained 17p to 545p, Morgan Grenfell improved 5p to 380p, Gellman's rose 3p to 91p and Mercury International 4p to 365p.

Elsewhere, the market was restrained by nervousness about further insider dealing scandals - and in spite of another record close on Wall Street over-night - but managed a modest rally before the close. It was helped later in the day by a major institution, which carried out a computerized selling and buying programme - buying back stock during the afternoon.

The FT 30 share index closed at its highest level of the day, up 11.5 to 1,334.3 and the broader-based FT-SE 100 index rose by 10.7 points to 1,690.7. Meanwhile, gilts rose by at least 5/8.



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ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

1986	Price				Volume	Price				Volume
High	Low	Open	Close	traded	High	Low	Open	Close	traded	
108 330 Allied-Lyons	330	340	+12	342	10,000	108 330 Allied-Lyons	330	340	+12	10,000
108 145 AIDA-GR	145	145	+1	146	0.5	108 145 AIDA-GR	145	145	+1	0.5
446 414 B&A	446	447	+1	447.5	267	446 414 B&A	446	447	+1	267
300 284 BTR	276	276	+0	284	3,600	300 284 BTR	276	276	+0	3,600
491 444 BAT	445	445	+0	445	3,800	491 444 BAT	445	445	+0	3,800
517 485 Baxters	500	507	+7	518	1,200	517 485 Baxters	500	507	+7	1,200
788 703 B&S	703	745	+42	745	1,412	788 703 B&S	703	745	+42	1,412
450 411 Bechtel	445	450	+5	451	1,800	450 411 Bechtel	445	450	+5	1,800
580 521 Blue Circle	518	521	+3	521	1,500	580 521 Blue Circle	518	521	+3	1,500
325 305 BOC	303	303	+0	305	1,400	325 305 BOC	303	303	+0	1,400
241 219 Boots	237	240	+3	241	1,500	241 219 Boots	237	240	+3	1,500
450 408 BP Amoco	415	418	+3	418	1,300	450 408 BP Amoco	415	418	+3	1,300
50 51 B&C	50	51	+1	51	700	50 51 B&C	50	51	+1	700
790 688 BP Petroleum	787	792	+5	792	4,000	790 688 BP Petroleum	787	792	+5	4,000
218 188 BT	200	212	+12	212	1,500	218 188 BT	200	212	+12	1,500
127 108 BT	107	107	+0	108	250	127 108 BT	107	107	+0	250
730 688 BT	687	688	+1	688	2,500	730 688 BT	687	688	+1	2,500
182 172 Cadbury Schweppes	172	172	+0	172	1,200	182 172 Cadbury Schweppes	172	172	+0	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	404	1,200	444 404 C&G	403	404	+1	1,200
158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	128	1,200	158 128 C&G	127	128	+1	1,200
730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	688	1,200	730 688 C&G	687	688	+1	1,200
182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	172	1,200	182 172 C&G	171	172	+1	1,200
444 404 C&G	403									

APPOINTMENTS

Blackwood Hodge: Mr M Wilkott becomes an executive director.

Binder Hamlyn Associates: Dr David West has been admitted to the partnership.

Hammerson Property Investment and Development Corporation: Mr John Parry is joint managing director.

Grant Thornton: Mr Brian Adams is principal, London office; Mr Stephen Baker, partner, Manchester office; Mr Ken Cooper, partner, Coventry office; Mr Bob Cunningham, partner, Glasgow office; Mr Dick Davies, partner, Bradford office; Mr Geoffrey Edwards, partner, Brighton office; Mr Paul Gibson, partner, Wokingham office; Mr Andrew Goodburn, partner, London office; Mr Derek Hindley, principal, London office; Mr Trevor Lewin, partner, Brighton office; Mrs Rosemary Marsh, partner, Poole office; Mr Jeremy Nolan, partner, Manchester office; Mr Martin Shaw, partner, Leicester office. In addition, Mr Adams, Mr

Cunningham, Mr Goodburn and Mr Peter Gillett (partner in Grant Thornton's national office) and Mr George Sienkiewicz (partner in Grant Thornton's Oxford office) are appointed directors of Grant Thornton Management Consultants.

Sedgwick: Mr M Evans has been appointed a director of Sedgwick Cargo and Mr NAC Branson and Mr AJP Mackie have been made directors of Sedgwick UK.

Pantherella: Mr Michael Butterworth joins the board as UK sales director.

Fairview New Homes: Mr William Bolt has become non-executive chairman.

Rea Brothers Group: Mr Anthony Arthur Hall has been appointed a director.

Bowers (Wiltshire): Mr Andrew Stafford has joined as marketing director.

One-to-One: Dr Michael Delaney has been appointed managing director. He succeeds Mr Tony Caplin.

Renold: Mr Trevor Grice has been elected to the board as chief executive.

'Second-class' employee share scheme attacked

By Anne Warden

An American economist criticises employee share ownership schemes — a key part of the Government's strategy for encouraging small shareholders — in a new British business directory.

Dr David Ellerman, who teaches at Boston College, Massachusetts, points to indirect share ownership as a pitfall. The employee share ownership plans in the United States (ESOPs), are "usually created as a tax-favoured financing instrument", he says.

He contends that they are not well designed as a vehicle for ownership and control by employees. "One likely possibility is that after much frustration and disillusionment, the employees will come to view ESOPs merely as a benefit plan invested in

the employer's securities. They will realize that beneficial ownership is only a second-class form of ownership," he adds.

The ESOP is usually a trust allowing indirect ownership by employees, he says. There are also companies with direct ownership of shares but tax advantages mean that most use the trust arrangement.

Dr Ellerman is co-founder of the Industrial Co-operative Association in the US, and makes his comments in the National Directory of New Co-operatives and Community Businesses, published by the Co-operative Development Agency.

There are thought to be more than 1,000 all-employee share schemes in Britain. The Government's fiscal encouragement given to employee

share ownership played a "most important part" in widening share ownership and the aim was to replace the "sterile Them and Us mentality" with a sense of common purpose, the Chancellor said last September.

Tax incentives in Britain aimed at helping employees to buy shares in their companies on attractive terms include halving the rate of stamp duty, increasing capital gains tax thresholds, and making no tax payable on purely inflationary gains since 1982.

More than 600,000 employees were thought to have acquired shares in their companies in Britain by last autumn and the take-up rate among employees for the British Telecom offer, for example, was 96 per cent.

COMPANY NEWS

● **PEPE GROUP:** Interim dividend unchanged at 1.5p, payable on April 6. Six months to Sept. 30. Turnover £20.81 million (£14.13 million). Pretax profit £2.63 million (£1.86 million). Earnings per share (weighted average) 6.3p (4.3p). The board reports that present trading remains buoyant.

● **HOLMES PROTECTION GROUP:** The group has acquired three US companies

Safeguard Protective Systems of Manhattan, Linus Alarm and Radio Surveillance, both based at Long Island. These will cost about \$8.3 million (£5.62 million) and will add about \$4.1 million annually to the revenue base.

● **ABBEY PANELS INVESTMENTS:** Total dividend 2.4p (2p) for the year to Sept. 30, 1986. Pretax profit on ordinary activities £1.31 million

(£842,000). Earnings per share 32.56p (18.68p).

● **TAKEOVER BY ELECTROCOMPONENTS:** The company has bought W.M. Lighting for between £4.5 million and £6.5 million. An initial payment of £3 million has been made. The balance — up to a maximum of £3.5 million, payable mainly in loan notes — will be paid in three tranches in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates close	Market rates close	1 month	3 months
January 6	January 6	0.95-0.96pm	1.24-1.25pm
N York 1.4725-1.4770	N York 1.4725-1.4770	0.95-0.96pm	1.24-1.25pm
Montreal 2.0225-2.0275	Montreal 2.0225-2.0275	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Amsterd 1.9925-2.0000	Amsterd 1.9925-2.0000	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Bremen 98.01-98.10	Bremen 98.01-98.10	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Copenhagen 10.7225-10.7280	Copenhagen 10.7225-10.7280	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Dublin 1.0444-1.0537	Dublin 1.0444-1.0537	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Frankfurt 2.0225-2.0275	Frankfurt 2.0225-2.0275	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Lisbon 213.71-215.27	Lisbon 213.71-215.27	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Madrid 192.94-193.08	Madrid 192.94-193.08	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Mexico 197.12-198.23	Mexico 197.12-198.23	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Osaka 10.8225-10.8280	Osaka 10.8225-10.8280	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Paris 6.3765-6.3855	Paris 6.3765-6.3855	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Stuttgart 233.75-234.85	Stuttgart 233.75-234.85	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Tokyo 19.54-20.01	Tokyo 19.54-20.01	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Zurich 2.3794-2.3815	Zurich 2.3794-2.3815	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm

Swiss franc compared with 1975 was up at 90.3 (day's range 89.7-90.3).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Market rates close	Market rates close	1 month	3 months
January 6	January 6	0.95-0.96pm	1.24-1.25pm
Argentina austral 1.4485-1.4500	Argentina austral 1.4485-1.4500	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Australia dollar 0.2105-0.2122	Australia dollar 0.2105-0.2122	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Bahian dollar 0.5335-0.5375	Bahian dollar 0.5335-0.5375	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Brazil cruzeiro 20.0000-20.1000	Brazil cruzeiro 20.0000-20.1000	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Cypriot pound 0.7385-0.7485	Cypriot pound 0.7385-0.7485	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Philippine peso 0.5800-0.5850	Philippine peso 0.5800-0.5850	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Portuguese escudo 200.30-204.30	Portuguese escudo 200.30-204.30	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Hong Kong dollar 11.4875-11.4900	Hong Kong dollar 11.4875-11.4900	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Indian rupee 18.10-18.15	Indian rupee 18.10-18.15	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Kuwait dinar KD 4.2885-4.2925	Kuwait dinar KD 4.2885-4.2925	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Malaysian dollar 2.7525-2.7545	Malaysian dollar 2.7525-2.7545	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
New Zealand dollar 2.7525-2.7545	New Zealand dollar 2.7525-2.7545	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Saudi Arabia riyal 2.7525-2.7545	Saudi Arabia riyal 2.7525-2.7545	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Singapore dollar 2.7525-2.7545	Singapore dollar 2.7525-2.7545	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
South African rand 3.1725-3.1850	South African rand 3.1725-3.1850	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
U.S. dollar 1.0000-1.0000	U.S. dollar 1.0000-1.0000	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm
Lloyds Bank	Lloyds Bank	1.1-1.11pm	1.4-1.41pm

Notes supplied by Deutsche Bank, NYPEX and ERM.

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	Recent Issues	Equities	Recent Issues
Ashted (122p)	151	Hornby (100p)	138
British Gas (80p)	64-1/4	Hoskins Co (122p)	147
Cap & Regional (80p)	58-1/4	Johnson Ry	160
Daniel S (130p)	150-1/2	Lon Inv Trs (14p)	21-1/2
Electricity (170p)	170-1/2	Lloyds Chemist (100p)	182
Gaynor (80p)	107-1/2	Logistics (20p)	86-1/2
Gest (120p)	171	Long Metropolitan (140p)	188
Glaxo (180p)	171	ML (144p)	146
Guthrie Corp (150p)	107-1/2	Mazda (150p)	106
Hallam & Goss (80p)	107-1/2	Maybank (100p)	153
Harmony Leisure (230p)	27-1/2	Northumbrian Fire (60p)	116-1/2
		Plum Hops (60p)	58-1/2
		Spencer (170p)	244-1/2

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Call	Put	Series	Call	Put
Ashted (122p)	280 58 07 75 1/2 2 5 11	300 38 08 80 1 5 11	Johnson Ry	220 7 13 12 12 18 18	120 12 18 18 18 18 18
British Gas (80p)	80 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	80 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Lon Inv Trs (14p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Cap & Regional (80p)	80 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	80 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Lloyds Chemist (100p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Daniel S (130p)	130 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	130 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Logistics (20p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Electricity (170p)	170 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	170 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Long Metropolitan (140p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Gaynor (80p)	80 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	80 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	ML (144p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Gest (120p)	120 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	120 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Mazda (150p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Glaxo (180p)	180 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	180 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Maybank (100p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Guthrie Corp (150p)	150 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	150 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Northumbrian Fire (60p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Hallam & Goss (80p)	80 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	80 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Plum Hops (60p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2
Harmony Leisure (230p)	230 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	230 15 15 15 1/2 1 1/2 1/2	Spencer (170p)	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2	400 45 45 45 1/2 1/2 1/2

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Base Rates %
Overnight High: 11% Low: 10%
Week End: 10%

Bank of England %
Overnight High: 11% Low: 10%
Week End: 10%

Bank of England %
Overnight High: 11% Low: 10%
Week End: 10%

Bank of England %
Overnight High: 11% Low: 10%
Week End: 10%

Bank of England %
Overnight High: 11% Low: 10%
Week End: 10%

Bank of England %
Overnight High: 11% Low: 10%
Week End: 10%

Bank of England %
Overnight High: 11% Low: 10%
Week End: 10%

Bank of England %
Overnight High: 11% Low: 10%
Week End: 10%

Bank of England %
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Portfolio
—Gold—

**Claims required for
+48 points**

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin on December 22. Dealings end on Friday. \$Contango day next Monday. Settlement day January 19.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

1274	1275	1276	1277	1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296	1297	1298	1299	1300	1301	1302	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308	1309	1310	1311	1312	1313	1314	1315	1316	1317	1318	1319	1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331	1332	1333	1334	1335	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350	1351	1352	1353	1354	1355	1356	1357	1358	1359	1360	1361	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368	1369	1370	1371	1372	1373	1374	1375	1376	1377	1378	1379	1380	1381	1382	1383	1384	1385	1386	1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397	1398	1399	1400	1401	1402	1403	1404	1405	1406	1407	1408	1409	1410	1411	1412	1413	1414	1415	1416	1417	1418	1419	1420	1421	1422	1423	1424	1425	1426	1427	1428	1429	1430	1431	1432	1433	1434	1435	1436	1437	1438	1439	1440	1441	1442	1443	1444	1445	1446	1447	1448	1449	1450	1451	1452	1453	1454	1455	1456	1457	1458	1459	1460	1461	1462	1463	1464	1465	1466	1467	1468	1469	1470	1471	1472	1473	1474	1475	1476	1477	1478	1479	1480	1481	1482	1483	1484	1485	1486	1487	1488	1489	1490	1491	1492	1493	1494	1495	1496	1497	1498	1499	1500	1501	1502	1503	1504	1505	1506	1507	1508	1509	1510	1511	1512	1513	1514	1515	1516	1517	1518	1519	1520	1521	1522	1523	1524	1525	1526	1527	1528	1529	1530	1531	1532	1533	1534	1535	1536	1537	1538	1539	1540	1541	1542	1543	1544	1545	1546	1547	1548	1549	1550	1551	1552	1553	1554	1555	1556	1557	1558	1559	1560	1561	1562	1563	1564	1565	1566	1567	1568	1569	1570	1571	1572	1573	1574	1575	1576	1577	1578	1579	1580	1581	1582	1583	1584	1585	1586	1587	1588	1589	1590	1591	1592	1593	1594	1595	1596	1597	1598	1599	1600	1601	1602	1603	1604	1605	1606	1607	1608	1609	1610	1611	1612	1613	1614	1615	1616	1617	1618	1619	1620	1621	1622	1623	1624	1625	1626	1627	1628	1629	1630	1631	1632	1633	1634	1635	1636	1637	1638	1639	1640	1641	1642	1643	1644	1645	1646	1647	1648	1649	1650	1651	1652	1653	1654	1655	1656	1657	1658	1659	1660	1661	1662	1663	1664	1665	1666	1667	1668	1669	1670	1671	1672	1673	1674	1675	1676	1677	1678	1679	1680	1681	1682	1683	1684	1685	1686	1687	1688	1689	1690	1691	1692	1693	1694	1695	1696	1697	1698	1699	1700	1701	1702	1703	1704	1705	1706	1707	1708	1709	1710	1711	1712	1713	1714	1715	1716	1717	1718	1719	1720	1721	1722	1723	1724	1725	1726	1727
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350	240	Yankee	250	270	..	10.0	3.8	0.1
TOBACCOS								
451	444	B&T	429	461	++	12.6	4.0	12.0
145	123	Camel	142	140	..	10.0	5.6	6.3
181	125	Roadrunner B	177	179	.. -1	10.0	5.6	6.3

● Ex dividend ● Ex all ● Forecast dividend ● Interest payment passed ● Price at suspension g dividend and yield exclude a special payment k, Pre-merger liquidation

declared, a Coptic dividend, is Coptic
 1. (1) Easter day. (2) Easter day. (3) Easter
 1. (4) Easter day. (5) Easter day. (6) Easter day.
 1. (7) Monday. (8) Tuesday. (9) Tuesday.
 1. (10) Wednesday. (11) Thursday. (12) Friday.
 1. (13) Saturday. (14) Sunday. (15) Sunday.
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible][illegible]

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list includes names such as "J. H. Smith", "W. J. Jones", and "A. B. Brown", among others.

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CHESTERTONS PRUDENTIAL

HAMPSTEAD, NW3
5200 p.w.
Superb detached house in a quiet residential area. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

CHIFFORD STREET, SW6
5200 p.w.
Charming well decorated house in the Chifford Estate. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

HIGHGATE VILLAGE, NS
5200 p.w.
Period semi-detached house, excellent condition. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

DOCKLANDS, E14
5200 p.w.
Modern semi-detached house, excellent condition. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

THE LARGEST RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS AGENT IN LONDON

OPENING SOON IN BATTERSEA

DOCKLANDS PROPERTY CENTRE
HOUSES AND FLATS THROUGHOUT THE DOCKLANDS AREA
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FW GAPP

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FULHAM SW6
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THE PROPERTY MANAGERS
01-266 4032

CAMERON CHOAT & PARTNERS

Public Relations & Marketing Consultants

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Apply in writing with CV or telephone:
Jonny McGarry, Cameron Choat & Partners
Bury House, 126-128 Cromwell Road, LONDON SW7 4ET.
Tel: 01-373 4537

SHIPPING COMPANY

JERMYN ST
Enthusiastic secretary required by small business managing office. Duties include: typing, filing, general office work. Short term preferred. Smart new office equipment. Minimum 1 year exp. Salary negotiable. Immediate start.

Fiona 434 2558
(No agencies)

SECRETARY

For small lively TV company, W.I.
Please contact Victoria Bartlett
01-734 4302

KATHINI GRAHAM

NOTTING HILL, W2
Newly decorated unfurnished house with 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 toilets, excellent kitchen, large rear garden, 1000 sq ft.

CAMPDEN HILL, W2
Newly decorated unfurnished house with 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 toilets, excellent kitchen, large rear garden, 1000 sq ft.

NOTTING HILL, W2
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Hampton & Sons

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A selection from our registers
St. James's Office 01-493 8222

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The Letting Agent
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Or Knightsbridge Office: 01 589 2133

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586 3088

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(No agencies)

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Superb, newly built house in a quiet residential area. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

CHIFFORD STREET, SW6
Charming well decorated house in the Chifford Estate. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

HIGHGATE VILLAGE, NS
Period semi-detached house, excellent condition. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

DOCKLANDS, E14
Modern semi-detached house, excellent condition. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

01-581 7848

AROUND TOWN

120, HOLLAND PARK AVENUE, W11.
Close to the station, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

01-229 8958

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Fiona 434 2558
(No agencies)

HERNE HILL

Lovely Edwardian family house, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

01-244 7353

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Unbelievable value. Superb high quality house in a quiet residential area. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

01-229 8958

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Enthusiastic secretary required by small business managing office. Duties include: typing, filing, general office work. Short term preferred. Smart new office equipment. Minimum 1 year exp. Salary negotiable. Immediate start.

Fiona 434 2558
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Plaza Estates

WILTON ST SW6
Superb, newly built house in a quiet residential area. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

CHIFFORD STREET, SW6
Charming well decorated house in the Chifford Estate. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

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Period semi-detached house, excellent condition. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

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Modern semi-detached house, excellent condition. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

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120, HOLLAND PARK AVENUE, W11.
Close to the station, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large garden, double garage, central heating, gas cooking, etc. Call 01-266 4032.

01-229 8958

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

Located near Gloucester Road tube is beautifully furnished offices. We have recently undergone a large expansion programme and now require an Assistant Receptionist/Telephonist for our Herald switchboard. Must be well spoken and well dressed. Needs to have initiative, charm and experience in dealing with clients, staff and tradesmen. No typing required. Age 20 plus. Hours 9.15 to 5.45. Salary £5,000 pa plus two bonuses pa and BUPA.

Apply in writing with CV or telephone:
Jonny McGarry, Cameron Choat & Partners
Bury House, 126-128 Cromwell Road, LONDON SW7 4ET.
Tel: 01-373 4537

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to £11,000
Prescriptive Solicitors require various experienced legal secretaries with 2-5 years' experience. Positions range from 900 to 1200 per annum. Excellent benefits and career opportunities. Forward CVs to: Legal Eagle, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

RECEP/SEC
to £10,500
Smart Sec/Recep required to work in a busy office for the Project Management Co. Duties will include taking dictation, typing, and general office work. A PA position in the true sense of the word.

DESIGN
to £9,000
Friendly Architect & Design Co. seeking enthusiastic & lively PA to organise 2 Partners in the Advertising Dept. Duties include: typing, dictation, and general office work. A PA position in the true sense of the word.

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to £10,000
Prescriptive PR agency requires 1st class PA to run the PR dept. Good typing speed, excellent dictation skills, and ability to take dictation. A PA position in the true sense of the word.

WE NEED YOU

You're a brilliant Wang Trainer with at least two years' WP training experience on Wang VS.

You know all about Wang WP and telex and you'll learn and train on Memory Base and 20/20. You'll prepare and give training courses, undertake skills assessment, refresher courses etc. You will also learn the ins and outs of other computer kit here at our agency.

You're aged around 25-30 and you're bright, flexible, logical, committed.

Call Sally Ann Goldfield at Wight Collins Rutherford Scott & Partners Ltd on 01-242 2800.

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You're an unusually bright, energetic Wang VS Operator with at least six months' experience on Wang VS.

You're familiar with 6581W and 5577 printer operations, with backups and disk utilities. You're good at troubleshooting and thinking on the hoof. You come from a dynamic environment and can cope with the stresses and strains of a fast-growing user population. You're aged around 23-30, you're intelligent, methodical, ambitious and you're keen to learn more about VS.

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Director's Secretary

Decision Maker

£13,000

A highly respected international company is in the process of reorganising and expanding one of its major divisions, operating in an important growth area of the economy.

To do this they have brought in a new director, an acknowledged authority in this field, to lead the operation. He needs a PA who is adept at working with loyalty and professionalism in a fast moving environment and who will welcome delegation and responsibility. Much of the material you will be dealing with - both client and internal matters - will be confidential and conversational; your discretion will be as valuable as your ability to give him positive input and advice.

The ideal candidate for this post will be aged 28-40, educated to 'A' Level standard, preferably with a senior level background in advertising, management consultancy or a similar client-oriented environment. Speeds 100/60.

Please telephone 01-437 1564

MacBlain
NASH
Associates Ltd
01-437 1564
Recruitment Consultants, 130 Regent Street, London W1R 5PE

Television

£10,500 + early review

This busy General Manager has set his target for 1987 and needs a PA to help make it happen. It is a busy post involving a large amount of client contact and will require you to have good diplomatic skills plus an ability to organise lots of people and meetings. The position will have its own junior.

If you want involvement, and value challenge then ring us for more details.

Age 23 - 39 Skills 110/65

Promise

£12,000

Our client promises his new PA help to fulfil her New Year's resolution to have a job with more involvement, satisfaction and money!

This is a busy job based in the heart of the West End, with this team of successful and friendly executives.

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Tel: 01-439 6021.

ARE YOU SALES ORIENTATED?

Accord, the well known Greeting Card and Gift Wrapping Paper Publisher, need more Merchandisers to visit Dept. Stores and other High St outlets in:

CENTRAL LONDON
NORTH LONDON POSTAL

Will suit lively and enthusiastic people, 20-35. No experience necessary and full training given. Salary of £9,000 plus profit share, bonus and Car provided.

We will be recruiting for several other new jobs in the coming 3 - 4 months in:

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Merchandising selling is very hard work but satisfying and fun. Join a winning Team and get in early for a Big Change for 1987.

Start by ringing Tamzin Millett on 01-354 0101 (8am - 8pm).

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Baldwin Terrace,
London N1 7RU

Musicians Benevolent Fund

SECRETARY/PA

TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Fund's chief executive requires a secretary to help him administer this busy national charity which helps needy musicians. The post requires good organisational skills, initiative and the ability to handle a varied workload under pressure. WP experience essential. An interest in music an advantage. Salary negotiable from £9,750 p.a.

The successful candidate will be over 23, educated to A-level standard and have first-class secretarial skills (100/50). Non-smoker preferred.

Please write for an application form/job description to Alison Evans, Musicians Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London W1P 7LG. Previous applicants need not re-apply.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

GERMANY: Bavaria - Bi-lingual Secretary with mother tongue standard English and brilliant German (French too if possible) to assist Managing Director of specialist, successful company. Lots of scope for someone able to provide the type of all round secretarial backup needed in a busy office.

FRANCE: Paris - Bi-lingual secretary with about a year's experience. English as mother tongue, fluent French and shorthand in both languages. Excellent opportunity to work as junior half of French PDG's secretarial team. Salary currently equivalent to £11,000, with five weeks holiday.

GERMANY: Frankfurt - Are you of German mother tongue and thinking of going home? Challenging opening for more of a PA than a secretary in mid to late twenties. You will be in on the ground floor, helping set up a new advertising sales office. Media/Marketing experience useful. DM3,000 to DM4,000 per month, plus relocation expenses.

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Make sure yours is a profitable one! As an experienced secretary with extensive knowledge of word processing, particularly IBM Displaywriter and Wang, we can offer you:

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- A friendly professional service
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£10,000

An excellent opportunity for a bright, young person to join the Chairman's office of this superb Hi-Tech Company. Working with (and deputising for) his PA, you will enjoy total involvement. As firm believers in 'promoting from within' they request good skills (short-hand or audio), some work experience and the ability to communicate at all levels. Age 20+.

Please telephone 01-493 4466.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

AD AGENCY - YOUNG PA

c.£8,500

Top college leaver or 2nd jobber for no.2 job in Chairman's office of this superb Hi-Tech Company. Working with (and deputising for) his PA, you will enjoy total involvement. As firm believers in 'promoting from within' they request good skills (short-hand or audio), some work experience and the ability to communicate at all levels. Age 20+.

Please telephone 01-493 4466.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

The John Lewis Partnership

SECRETARY for the FINANCIAL ADVISER

Department Stores

based in John Lewis Oxford Street

This position would suit a mature person, age 40+, with excellent secretarial skills and the ability to cope calmly and efficiently with a heavy typing load.

Applicants should be numerate and possess a good command of the English language.

Knowledge of IBM Displaywriter, up to Report Pack, would be an advantage, although training will be provided. Shorthand and/or audio skills are essential.

Hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Pay: £2650 - £3000, to be reviewed in March 1987.

Five weeks holiday.

AN EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

is also required for THE CHIEF TRAINING ADVISER

based in John Lewis Oxford Street

For this post we are looking for a Secretary with first class audio typing skills, and the competence to work under pressure.

Applicants must have a pleasant, professional manner and be able to deal tactfully with people at all levels on a variety of confidential matters. The successful candidate should also have strong administrative and organisational skills and be able to work in a methodical manner.

Hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Pay: £3000 - £3500, to be reviewed in March 1987.

Four weeks holiday rising to five weeks after 3 years service.

Staff benefits include subsidised dining room and shopping discount in our department stores and Waitrose supermarkets. The John Lewis Partnership is a company owned by those who work in it. This means you will benefit from the best profit sharing scheme in the country. Every year, after provision for future development, the whole of the profit is shared among those who work in the business.

Please apply in writing to:

The Assistant Staff Manager,
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London W10 0PF,
or telephone 01-627 3434, ext 6783/4.

John Lewis Partnership

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

MD (FRENCH) is looking for Bi-lingual Secretary/PA (mid twenties onwards) with English and French shorthand, owing to promotion. This is a British subsidiary of a French leisure industry group, with lovely new offices in Pimlico. £10,000 plus, with excellent conditions.

GERMAN: Personnel Manager needs a Bi-lingual Secretary/PA (25-45) whose fluent German will be used on the phone and for translating. Job involves a fair amount of administration including organisation of trainee programmes. Around £10,000 plus banking package.

SPANISH: VP Corporate Finance seeks Bi-lingual Secretary/PA (24-29) with very fluent spoken Spanish allied to absolutely perfect English. Good telephone manner essential as there is lots of liaison with established and potential clients. Well paid (£11,000 plus bonus plus overtime plus banking package) but the hours are long.

01 836 3794
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£15,000

Are you a market maker? A City background will help you make it to the front-line with this Chief Executive in one of the UK's top Investment Houses. The pressure and commitment needed are high but so are the rewards. Good skills are required as this is a real opportunity to contribute and play a major role in client liaison. Age 30-35.

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Working at a very fast pace to provide a superb secretarial back up to this demanding young Managing Director as well as a second top Director, you will need flexibility, enthusiasm, resilience and senior level experience. Based in the smart W.I. offices of this leading international computer consultancy, your responsibilities include handling the company's major general and sales conferences and ensuring the smooth running of this busy office. Poise, polish and a positive attitude are essential for this exciting position. Skills 100+/60 audio and WP. Age 30-35. Please telephone 434 4512.

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Excellent first position with opportunity to move into sales administration

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LONDON WC1 **£8,000-£8,500 + PROFIT SHARE**

Opportunity for College Leaver, aged 18-21, to join small, but expanding London sales office of a major building products manufacturer. Reporting to the Regional Sales Manager you will be responsible for typing letters and reports, dealing with telephone enquiries, processing sales orders via on-line computer terminal, telex, filing etc. A good telephone manner is important as is a flexible attitude and working as part of a small, friendly team. Initial remuneration is negotiable, £8,000-£8,500 + profit share, free BUPA, contributory pension. Applications in strict confidence under reference SCL582/TT, to the Managing Director.

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TELEPHONE: 01-588 5598 OR 01-588 5676. TELEX: 967274. FAX: 01-588 5691

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Telephone Sue Cooke on 01-409 1232.

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to £11,000

Join this major consumer product and leisure company as secretary to a Board Director. This is a highly administrative post and involves organising conferences and leading with VIP's. Excellent benefits include bonus, subsidised restaurant and own office. 100/55 skills required. Please telephone 01 240 3551.

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2 Bow Lane London EC4

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£11,500

Leading haute couture and perfume house in SW1 offers a PA position to the MD. Excellent French and secretarial skills required (90/35 wpm). Call 01-498 1631.

REDDLETON JEFFERS

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c.£14,000

The International Personnel Director of a major name in fund management needs a top calibre P.A. who is accustomed to working at very senior levels. Internationally. Min. 'A' level education and a genuine ability to work fast and efficiently under pressure are essential. Skills: 100/65/WP. Age: late 20s.

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W.I. co. (subsidiary of plc) designs and manufactures dress and casual wear for top British retailers. Sales Director needs a fashion-oriented Sec/PA to help her - copies of books, typing a day two short-handled simple party calls/bookkeeping, much planning, making appointments, logging fabric. Being it isn't pressure there is, but quite busy occasionally. Other stuff: 14+ all friendly. To fit you'll be 30-35, easy-going, pleasant, bubbly, with common sense and initiative. Ring

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35 PICCADILLY LONDON W1V 5PB
01-734 7282

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Dynamic P.A. to run new office of well known Estate Agent. An enthusiastic, energetic and good organisational ability for entertaining and social occasions 9.30 a.m. Company car.

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Excellent opportunity to join prestigious financial PR company. The New Business Director needs a P.A. to give secretarial/admin support. Extensive client contact. Friendly, dynamic company. 'A' levels minimum. Skills 80/60/WP. If you are socially poised, confident, professional, call for an immediate appointment.

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If you are a born organiser, love the Arts and have good typing, why not join this prestigious gallery in Mayfair?

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A very high salary current and a strong bonus factor revolving around 200 Manages in this fast-growing international high-tech company, calls for a young team spirited secretary wanting to develop her own role. Age 21+ £10,000 + free car parking.

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Large London residential estate agency with own publications division requires general assistant to join their head office administration team.

Successful applicant must have excellent command of English, both written and spoken, good secretarial skills, with shorthand, and be numerate. Previous editorial experience an asset.

Salary negotiable.

Please telephone
Henrietta Smyth
WINKWORTH
01 351 7465

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£13,000

Beyond a doubt one of the most exciting opportunities available today. You will be career oriented, have a clear sense of direction and the competence to organise anything and everything. Fully stretch your capabilities, taking on a variety of tasks, and people handling skills. Age 34+ Typing 40 wpm. Contact -

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Requires secretary, ideal opportunity to learn travel business. Plenty of client contact, so good telephone manner essential. Informal, busy atmosphere. Good shorthand/typing ability. Salary negotiable.

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European Law Report

Irish divorce laws held not to be in breach of human rights convention

Johnston and Others v Ireland
Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges J. Cremona, Thor Vilhjálmsson, G. Lagergren, F. Golcuklu, F. Matscher, J. Pinheiro Farinha, L.-E. Pettit, B. Walsh, Sir Vincent Evans, R. Macdonald, C. Russo, R. Bernhardt, J. Gering, A. Spielmann, J. de Meyer, and J. A. Carrillo Salcedo
Registrar M.-A. Eissen
(Case No 6/1985/92/139)
[Judgment December 18]

The European Court of Human Rights held by 16 votes to one that the absence of provision for divorce under Irish law and a couple's resultant inability to marry each other did not give rise to a violation of article 8 or article 12 of the European Convention on Human Rights, unanimously that, as to other aspects of the couple's own status under Irish law, there was no violation of article 8; and unanimously, that the legal situation of the couple's daughter under Irish law gave rise to a violation of article 8 as regards both her and each of her parents.

The first applicant, Mr Roy Johnston, was married in 1952 and had three children from this marriage. He and his wife agreed to separate in 1963 and subsequently concluded a formal separation agreement.

Since 1971 he had lived with Janice Williams-Johnston, the second applicant. The third applicant, their daughter Nessa Williams-Johnston, was born in 1978.

Mr Johnston was unable to seek a divorce in Ireland to enable him to marry the second applicant because of the prohibition of divorce contained in the Irish Constitution.

The applicants raised a series of complaints under the following provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights: article 8 (right to respect for family life); article 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion); article 12 (right to marry and to found a family); article 13 (right to an effective domestic remedy for a breach of the Convention); and article 14 (enjoyment of the Convention rights and freedoms to be secured without discrimination).

In its report of March 5, 1985 the Commission expressed the unanimous opinion that there had been a breach of article 8, in that the legal regime concerning the status of the third applicant under Irish law and relating to such matters as guardianship, parental rights and succession rights failed to respect the family life of all three applicants.

It did not find any violations of the Convention with respect to all the other complaints raised by the applicants.

In its judgment the European Court of Human Rights held:

1 First and second applicants
A liability to divorce and remarriage

As regards article 12, the words "right to marry" in it covered, in its ordinary meaning, the formation but not the dissolution of a marital relationship. Moreover, the drafting history disclosed no intention to include any guarantee of a right to divorce.

It was true that the Convention and its protocols had to be interpreted in the light of present-day conditions. However, the court could not by means of an evolutive interpretation derive from those instruments a right that was not included therein at the outset. That was particularly so here, where the omission was deliberate.

Also, the right to divorce was

not included in Protocol No 7 to the Convention which was opened for signature in 1954. The opportunity was not taken to deal with that question in article 5 of the protocol which guaranteed certain additional rights to spouses, notably in the event of dissolution of marriage.

Indeed, paragraph 39 of the explanatory report to the protocol stated that the words "in the event of its dissolution" found in article 5 "do not imply any obligation on a state to provide for dissolution of marriage or to provide any special forms of dissolution".

As regards article 8, it was clear that the applicants, the first and second of whom had lived together for some 15 years, constituted a "family". They were thus entitled to its protection notwithstanding the fact that their relationship existed outside marriage.

The question that arose on that part of the case was whether an effective "respect" for the applicants' family life imposed

on Ireland a positive obligation to introduce measures that would permit divorce.

It was true that, on that question, article 8, with its reference to the somewhat vague notion of "respect" for family life, might appear to lend itself more readily to an evolutive interpretation than did article 12.

Nevertheless, the Convention had to be read as a whole and the Court did not consider that a right to divorce, which it had found to be excluded from article 12, could, with consistency, be derived from article 8, a provision of more general purpose and scope.

The Court was not oblivious to the plight of the first and second applicants. However, it was of the opinion that, although the protection of private or family life might sometimes necessitate measures whereby spouses could be relieved from the duty to live together, the engagements undertaken by Ireland under article 8 could not be

regarded as extending to an obligation on its part to introduce measures permitting the divorce and the re-marriage which the applicants sought.

In so far as the two applicants claimed that they were victims of discrimination contrary to article 14 of the Convention taken in conjunction with article 8, by reason of the fact that certain foreign divorce might be recognized by the Irish courts, it was the court's view that the situation of the applicants could not be regarded as analogous to that of persons who were domiciled abroad and could obtain such recognition.

Roy Johnston also alleged a breach of article 9 of the Convention taken alone or in conjunction with article 14, in that his inability to live with Janice Williams-Johnston other than in an extra-marital relationship was contrary to his conscience.

His complaint derived, in essence, from the non-availability of divorce under Irish law, a matter to which, in the court's

view, article 9 could not, in its ordinary meaning, be taken to extend.

B. Matters other than liability to divorce and re-marriage

The applicants further alleged that, in violation of article 8, there had been an interference with, or lack of respect for, their family life on account of their status under Irish law.

They put forward a number of allegations to support a general complaint concerning status and, while hearing them in mind, the Court concentrated on the broader issue.

A number of the matters complained of were but consequences of the inability to obtain a dissolution of Roy Johnston's marriage enabling him to marry Janice Williams-Johnston, a situation which the Court has found not to be incompatible with the Convention.

As was recorded in the preamble to the European Convention of October 15, 1975 on the legal status of children born out of wedlock, "in a great number of member states (of the Council of Europe) efforts have been, and are being, made to improve the legal status of children born out of wedlock by reducing the differences between their legal status and that of children born in wedlock which are to the legal and social disadvantage of the former". Furthermore, in Ireland itself that trend was reflected in the Status of Children Bill recently laid before Parliament.

In its consideration of that part of the case, the Court could

not but be influenced by those developments. As it observed in its *Marckx* judgment in 1979, "respect" for family life understood as including the ties between relatives, implied an obligation for the state to act in a manner calculated to allow those ties to develop normally.

And in the present case the normal development of the family ties between the first and second applicants and their daughter required in the Court's opinion, that she should be placed, legally and socially, in a position akin to that of a legitimate child.

Examination of the third applicant's present legal situation, seen as a whole, revealed, however, that it differed considerably from that of a legitimate child in addition to the fact that it was not shown that there were any means available to her or her parents to eliminate or reduce the differences.

Having regard to the particular circumstances of the case and notwithstanding the wide margin of appreciation enjoyed by Ireland in that area, the absence of an appropriate legal regime reflecting the third applicant's natural family ties amounted to a failure to respect her family life.

Moreover, the close and intimate relationship between the third applicant and her parents was such that there was of necessity also a resultant failure to respect the family life of each of the latter.

As succession rights were included among the aspects of Irish law which were taken into consideration in the examination of the general complaint concerning the third applicant's legal situation, the Court did not consider it necessary to give a separate finding on the third applicant's complaint of discrimination contrary to article 14 taken in conjunction with article 8.

2 Article 50
The court rejected some of the claims for "just satisfaction" submitted by the applicants: first, a request for a recommendation to the Irish Government to make an approach (which was unconnected with the subject-matter of the dispute) to the Irish authorities through diplomatic channels with a view to securing either a Presidential pardon or a reopening of the Italian criminal proceedings; second, a claim for financial compensation for the prejudice suffered by Mr Bozano's wife (who did not have the standing of an applicant).

As to the remainder of his claims, the court ruled that the question of the application of article 50 was not yet ready for decision and that therefore the matter should be reserved.

3 Application of article 50
The Court rejected the applicants' claims for material and non-material loss. It considered that they either related to matters in respect of which no breach of the Convention had been found, or that the Court's findings of violation of themselves constituted "sufficient" just satisfaction.

The Court found, however, that the applicants should be awarded 12,000 Irish pounds in respect of their request and costs. This figure was to be increased by any value-added tax that might be chargeable.

Judge J. de Meyer expressed a separate partly dissenting and partly concurring opinion.

France is adjudged in violation of individual's right to liberty

Bozano v France

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges J. Cremona, J. Pinheiro Farinha, L.-E. Pettit, Sir Vincent Evans, C. Russo and J. Gering

Registrar M.-A. Eissen
(Case No 5/1985/91/138)
[Judgment December 18]

In a unanimous judgment the European Court of Human Rights found France in violation of article 5(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights. Mr Bozano's deprivation of liberty was neither "lawful", within the meaning of article 5(1)(a), nor compatible with the "right to security of person".

Article 5(1) of the Convention stipulates: "Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law: (a) the lawful arrest or detention of a person after conviction by a competent court; ... (f) the lawful arrest or detention of a person ... against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition."

A judgment rendered, on appeal and by default (contumacia), in Genoa in Italy in 1973, sentenced Mr Bozano to life imprisonment for the kidnapping and murder of a young girl; he had been acquitted at first instance for in-

sufficiency of evidence.

After an appeal on points of law had been rejected, the Italian authorities requested that he be extradited from France where he had sought refuge. That request was the object, in May 1979, of an unfavourable opinion from the Indemnités chamber of the Limoges Court of Appeal as it found the way in which the criminal proceedings had been conducted in Italy to be contrary to French *ordre public*.

Mr Bozano, against whom criminal proceedings had also been instituted on account of certain offences committed in France, was released on bail under judicial supervision on September 19, 1979. On October 26, 1979, the investigating judge discharged him from judicial supervision and ordered that he be tried at the Limoges Criminal Court on a charge of using forged identity documents.

The same evening Mr Bozano was apprehended by the police, served with a deportation order and taken by force in a car to the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva.

He was immediately detained by the Swiss authorities early next morning with a view to extradition, and, after judgment, was extradited to the Swiss Federal Court, which was extradited to Italy in June 1980. He was currently serving his sentence on the island of Elba.

After having unsuccessfully

attempted to achieve a friendly settlement, the European Commission of Human Rights drew up its report on December 7, 1984, in which it expressed the opinion, by 11 votes to 2, that there was a breach of article 5(1)(f) of the Convention.

In its judgment the European Court of Human Rights held:

1 Article 5(1)
The main issue was whether the disputed detention of Mr Bozano during the night of October 26-27 1979 was lawful, including whether it was in accordance with "a procedure prescribed by law".

The Convention had required essentially to national law and established the need to apply its rules, but it also required that any measure depriving the individual of his liberty had to be compatible with the purpose of article 5, namely to protect the individual from arbitrariness. What was at stake here was not only the "right to liberty" but also the "right to security of person".

Where the Convention referred directly to domestic law, as in article 5, compliance with such law was an integral part of contracting states' "engagements" and the court was accordingly competent to satisfy itself of such compliance where relevant (article 19); the scope of its task in that connection, however, was subject to limits inherent in the logic of the European system of protection, since it was in the first place for

the national authorities, notably the courts, to interpret and apply domestic law.

Several points of French law had been disputed in the present case. While the material in the case-file was not absolutely conclusive, it provided sufficient basis for the court to have the gravest doubts as to whether the contested detention had been in conformity with the requirements of French law.

"Lawfulness", in any event, also implied absence of any arbitrariness. In that respect, the Court attached great weight to the circumstances in which the applicant was forcibly conveyed to the Swiss border.

First, the relevant authorities waited for more than a month before serving the deportation order of September 17, 1979 on Mr Bozano, although there was no difficulty about finding him in Limoges, where he was in pre-trial detention until September 19 and was under judicial supervision. The authorities thus prevented him from making any effective use of the remedies theoretically available to him.

What was more serious was that the authorities gave every appearance of having the intention to ensure that Mr Bozano did not find out about the action they were preparing to take against him, so that they could more effectively force him with a *fait accompli* thereafter.

To that had to be added the suddenness with which the applicant was apprehended by the

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Simon Barnes considers the abundance of subjects that deserve a master's eye.

Ballooning is breathtakingly lovely to look at and fills the watcher with envy. *Sci Sunday* repeats identical shots for an hour and we watch it because it is so good to look at. A bowling green is

Athletics is a sport in which grace is often a by-product of achievement. I trust I am not being racist when I say that black athletes do not only do most of it better, but they do it more gracefully than whites. True, there

Horses and yachts have, as I say, been much painted. After all, people with yachts and horses can normally afford the odd painting as well: it makes better sense painting horses than whippets. But greyhounds are the most beautiful of creatures. Landseer painted Prince Albert's greyhound (who was called Eos, by the way) but said to say, you don't get painters of similar stature at Hackney dogs. For dogs racing can be a delight to look at. Railyrean Bob, the new wonder-

No, the batsman whose sumptuous strokes have given me most aesthetic joy has been Botham. That straight drive of his, from its thundering start through to the wild exuberance of its follow-through, is a thing of beauty. It is not brute power: it is orthodoxy taken to an extreme with extreme results.

other cricketer could have

You might think that the more brutal the game, the less grace is involved. Of course, this is not the case. The contrast between the brutes trying to hammer someone, and the graceful genius who dodges the men, has been a part of sport since Minoan times, and the sport of bull-leaping. The Romans placed gladiatorial combat on the same principle with *secutor* versus *retarius*. American football works the same way. It is perhaps the most brutal sport of them all (I do not include boxing as a sport anymore than I do cock fighting) and yet it has moments of grace. Dan Marino, bitten by a gang of brilliantly organized psychopaths, yet some- how unleashing one of those long

Even football has its moments of grace and beauty. No one could forget the sight of Best dancing through the clodhoppers and turning his markers again and again. One of his bemused opponents was substituted "suffering from twisted blood" as a colleague put it.

Indeed, sport — all sport — is full of beauty and delight. Those who have not noticed this, those who prefer a pile of bricks to a Stubbs, those who hold sport in intellectual and aesthetic contempt — well, let us note that they are missing a thousand treats, as anyone must if he walks around with his eyes closed, and let us leave it at that. Poor fellows: do they not see that every sport ever played has some kind of beauty and grace about it?

Except synchronized swimming, of course.



Amazing grace: Fatima W. and Evonne Cawley possess the ability of being able to command power with the beauty of

lifthread (left)
s the unique
mbine sheer
movement

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

department. Anatoly Kostyakov, was quoted by Tass news agency as saying it was too early to know who was to blame.

seed, was taken to 7-5 in the first

champion, meets Alex Dick
(Larkhall).

the country but for a number of devastated."

19.0. at Alexander Pavlov.

